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WELCOVE



With the end of the year racing towards us like a fully-charged Tesla X the giants of the mobile phone market are – as they always do at this time of year – duking it out for our attention. Apple's contender is the iPhone 6s (p.32), Sony's thrown its 4K-display touting Z5 Premium (p. 14) in the ring and Samsung's S6 Edge+ (p. 75) wants a piece of the pie, too.

But tech isn't all smartphones and Bluetooth headphones, selfies and streaming services, which is why we've collected, vetted and ogled 200 of the greatest things in the world right now (p. 37). From stuff that looks good, sounds good and goes fast to stuff to play, stuff we're addicted to and, sadly, plenty of stuff we can't afford, you're sure to find something you didn't know about but definitely want.

One of the things we want is an electric unicycle. No, really. The **Ninebot One E+ (p. 12)** is the current market leader, and we spent more time than we'd like to admit getting the hang of it this month while dealing with a mixture of incredulous, slack-jawed and (a couple of) derisive bystanders.

While one wheel's fun, four are still more practical. Our resident early adopter Rob Forbes talks car tech (p. 30) and we take a look at the best in intelligent motoring (p. 66).

If you do go and splash out on a new car, you'll want to keep an eye on it. Enter Samsung's new SmartCam (p. 84), the most user-friendly IP camera we've ever had the pleasure of using to watch over and – thanks to the two-way audio function – confuse our pets.

Finally, if you're tired of Hollywood's formulaic films and tedious TV, you may want to dip your toes into the world of **Anime (p. 94).** It's inspired more sci-fi movies than Star Wars and, if nothing else, it'll level-up your geek-cred instantly. Until next month, sayonara.



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REMEMBER, the next monthly issue is ON SALE 23 Nov









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SONEMS



ON THE COVER



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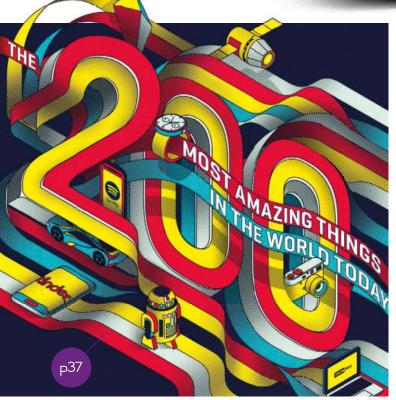
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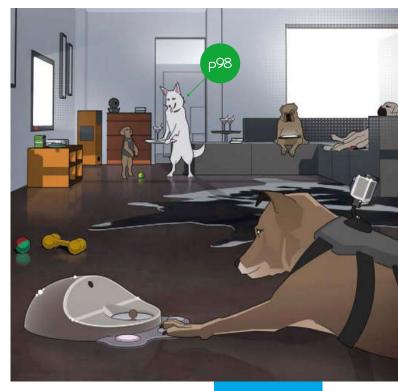




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He'll take a 20-minute break from *Destiny:* The Taken King to answer your questions





OF EVERYTHING

Looking to buy something but need a bit of advice? Turn to our Stuff Top Tens: our expert listings of all gadgetry, from **p101**



LG 65UF850T★★★★

New flagship 4K TV **p107**





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HOT FOUR #1



THE THIN NEW LINE Apple iPad Pro

In the run-up to Apple's September event, the thing we were certain about was an 's' update to the iPhone 6, no doubt prefaced with some graphs. What we got, however, was a bewildering flow of products and demos: a multimedia extravaganza, during which guests and engineers and doctors (and even Microsoft) trooped on and off the stage. We got the iPhone 6s and 6s Plus we were expecting, complete with snazzy 3D Touch screen, but we also saw a new version of Apple TV, Product Red and Hermès Apple Watch versions, a whole load of app and game demos and Siri making jokes. We were so enthralled in the Stuff office that we forgot to order pizza. Reigning supreme among the many announcements, though, was this: the iPad Pro. Less than a milimetre thicker than the iPad Air 2, it has a 3in/7.6cm larger screen: 12.9in/32.8cm, with 2732x2048 resolution. There's a pressure-sensitive stylus, the \$100 (R1500) Pencil, which Apple is suggesting makes the iPad Pro a tool for creatives who might currently use a Wacom graphics tablet or a Microsoft Surface 3. The Pro has an A9X chip to keep things trucking, and battery life is quoted at 10 hours.

As hot as... fingerprint-free screens Rtba / istoreonline.co.za



or landscape.

UFF

22 PAGES
OF THE BIGGEST
STORIES FROM
PLANET TECH



How big?

A size hike of 3in/7.6cm might not sound like a revolution, but it's enough that you could fit two Air-sized screens side by side on the Pro. In fact, the OS will let you do just that, for joyous multitasking.

IN SPRING, MANY APPLES DROP



APPLE iPHONE 6s

The 's' version gets a new metal body, new A9 chip, new 3D Touch screen, new haptic feedback, new camera and new photo skills. Just an 'update', then. See our full review on p32.



APPLE TV

Still not an actual TV, but tvOS software brings Siri-searchable television-orientated apps and games. A touchpad remote and third-party game controllers adds to the awesomeness.











S2 Classic

If you'renot into the minimalist chic of the Gear S2, then the S2 Classic might be for you. It has a leather strap and a knurled bezel. Contrary to intuition, however, it's actually 2mm smaller at 40mm.



GEAR GROWS UP SAMSUNG GEAR S2

The new S2 has a rotating bezel, it works with non–Samsung phones, and one of the models can go online without a phone at all. Are you as confused as we are by the smartwatch market? Samsung flung out several in 2013 and 2014, and none particularly stuck. But they're back with the Gear \$2, and it looks good. Good in physical terms, whether the understated standard S2 or the metal-and-leather S2 Classic. It also looks good as a proposal. It's running Samsung's Tizen OS, but its app is downloadable for any Android phone. Tizen might not look as sexy as Apple's watchOS or Android Wear but the rotating bezel should make it super-easy to use. Plus it runs light: the S2's battery life is quoted at 2-3 days - less so for the S23G version, despite a larger battery. Back to the headline, then: the S2 might be the measured, capable smartwatch we've been waiting for.

As hot as... a supersized crown Rtba / samsung.com/za

MORE SMARTWATCH NEWS



Apple Watch

A new OS version will allow apps to run without the aid of a smartphone. There'll be gold aluminium and rose gold versions as well as Product Red and Hermès special editions.



Motorola Moto 360 Sport

The new 360 will have two sizes, but it's this rubbery Sport version that's got the geeks itchy-wristed. It has GPS and onboard storage.



LG Watch Urbane Luxe

Some will deride this 23-karat gold version for being ostentatious. But if you can't afford an Apple Watch Edition, it's only R16 500.







A TELLER OF LONG TAILS

MERCEDES-BENZ CONCEPTIAA

It's the closest Mercedes gets to a home game, the gigantic Frankfurt Motor Show, and consequently the fans expect something a bit special. This'll do. The Intelligent Aerodynamic Automobile (the initials coincide, uncoincidentally, with the abbreviated name of the show) is a swoopy five-door petrol/electric hybrid concept. Its chief party trick is dynamic aero bits, including an extending tail section and morphing wheels, which transform at speed to give it a drag coefficient of just 0.19. Very futuristic. What you can expect to see nearer to now are the touch-operated driver controls, and the overall design and shape, which will apparently dictate the direction of the

new CLS grand tourer, due in 2017.

As hot as... Concorde's transforming nose section

Rtba(concept)/mercedes-benz.co.za

Speed freak

ToparaphraseDoc EmmettBrown, when this baby hits 80km/h, you'll see some serious...reductions in drag. The wheels will become flatter, while the back of the car will extend by 15in/38cm.







ONE WHEEL TO RULE THEM ALL

NINEBOT ONE E+

What do you get if you remove all of the ridiculous parts of a Segway – like the handlebar bit, the crazy price tag, the Arrested Development quips and, er, the second wheel – and add two rings of programmable, colour-changing LED lights and a learning curve sufficiently steep to discourage thievery but sufficiently steep to elicit "oohs" and "ahhs" from those you whizz past on it? The Ninebot One E+, that's what. The undisputed king of the growing electric unicycle market, Ninebot actually bought Segway earlier this year and makes its own two-wheeled scooters. It's onewheeled wonders are infinitely cooler even if they do take more getting used to - leaving your hands free to high-five gawking strangers or carry shopping. Its 320Wh battery takes four hours for a full charge, enables a top speed of 22km/h and a range of 25–30km. Oh, and the Ninebot is waterproof and will fit in your car boot. Try doing that with a Segway. Ashot as... the cheeks of Segway riding onlookers

R12000/imperialgreen.co.za



VITALSTATS

4K FRONT, YOU ON THE BACK

Sony Xperia Z5 Premium

from Rtba (end 2015) / sonymobile.com/za

Put your fingerprints here! Better that than a constant slideshow of your own mush.

The world's first 4K phone is here, and it will give you pause for reflection

Mobillus narcissus

Many phones have a shiny finish, but the back of the chrome version of the Z5 Premium is, for all intents and purposes, an actual mirror. So there you are, peering closer and closer at the 4K screen on the front in an attempt to discern pixels and... eek! You've absently flipped it over and caught an extreme close-up of your own face. The shock of self-spying in better-than-4K might cause you to drop your phone into the gin. No matter: it's a Sony, it's waterproof.

There will be trolls

"Why would anyone need such a high-resscreen?" is the clean summary of the troll community output. But if there's one thing we know about trolls, it's that they've got terrible eyesight and little sense of gadget joy. Granted, there are no content services capable of breaking the 5.5in/14cm, 3840x2160 screen into a sweat. But when they come, by the gods, you'll be ready! And in the meantime you can have 806ppi fun downloading big photos or sticking in the microSD card from your 4K action cam and watching the footage. A giant 3840mAh battery should keep the lights on.

Inside out

Within the confines of the mostly cuboidical 7.8mm Z5, there's a thrumming Snapdragon 810 processor and 3GB of RAM. But there's also a new camera sensor: a1/2.3in 23MP Exmor RS camera sensor with af 2.0 lens. Its autofocus works in 0.03 secs, which is a fraction of the fraction of a second about which other manufacturers crow.

Version aversion

4K too flashy? Try the 4.6in/11.7cm, 720p Z5 Compact or 5.2in/13.2cm, 1080p Z5. Both have the same Qualcomm chip and fast-focusing camera. But not the mirrored finish.





PAST MASTERS FROM VGA TO 4K IN TEN SHORT YEARS

VGA: 02 XDA Exec

"The most powerful phone in the world!" we squealed in 2005. We were talking about its 3.6in/9.1cm VGA screen, Windows Mobile 5.0 and 3G. But we also mocked it for its bulky build: "It"libe a bit of a squeeze in your drainpipes," said we.

1080p: Sony Xperia Z

Post-CES ennuimust account for the lack of enthusiasm we showed for the first SA-bound 1080p phone, in the March 2013 issue of Stuff. "It's not as big a difference as you might think," we said sniffly about Full HD photos.

4K: Sony Xperia Z5 Premium

"You can have 806ppi fun," we gushed... er, just over there.



Now where did we leave that surfboard strap...? MONSTER SUPERSTAR BACKFLOAT

Now that the sun is out we're cursing all that time we spent wishing for it during the chillier months. But since we have to endure the melty weather, we'd rather spendit in the water. But sunny weather also deserves music and if that music is being presented by Monster, so much the better. The Superstar Backfloat gives you tunes in the pool or the river or... it's a freshwater speaker, really. It's probably not a great idea to take it into the sea — salt is finer than water and the Superstar Blackfloat makes for a dandy floating obstacle to crack your shins against when you bail.

R2500/takealot.co.za



Surface tension LENOVO IDEAPAD MIIX 700

You can find every thing you need in Lenovo's Travelling Circus. And yet the ringmaster is angry. Because the crowds still flock to see the one-man show that is the Microsoft Surface. With all of the passion that wearing a top hat can imbue, Master Lenovo rattles the bars of the cage of the creators and bids them build something... with a kickstand! They acquiesce — how could they not? — and build a sixth—gen Intel Core m7 into it. They mutter about the good old days as they pour in 2160x1440 pixels and fashion a detachable keyboard. Two little Lenovo 'watchstrap' hinges for the stand delight the ringmaster, but the clown has made himself up with a smiley face, to show that he's not happy about it at all.

Rtba/lenovo.com/za

STARTMENU

The latest startups, crowdfunded projects and plain crazy ideas



Mighty morphin' finger ranger SENSEL MORPH

Apple has claimed the world's designers will flock to its massive new iPad, but this squidgy, highly sensitive input device could be a better option. The Morph's surface is sensitive enough to register hard or soft paintbrush strokes, but its main trick - and the reason for its name - is the ability to add button overlays that convert the pad into a music keyboard, robot interface or game-specific controller - it works with a PC, mobile device or Arduino board. True, it won't have the same groovy consumer apps as the iPad Pro, but don't underestimate the attraction of real keys, or indeed a real pencil.



\$250 / sensel.com

BACK IT

SACK IT



Bouncy lumens MILLION MILE LIGHT

We can't all get up and log 10km of tar-pounding before work. And when the day is done, we want to run, only to find the roads full of people driving home from work. They don't see runners so well. So this LED light, powered by your bounding strides, is officially A Good Idea.

£20 / millionmilelight.com





Check your head **BATBAND**

While detractors might argue that the audio quality of bone conduction headphones isn't the best, there's no doubting the good sense of having your ears free for important things like hearing cars. As long as you don't mind small children saying, "Ha! What you got on your head there, space kid?"

\$250 / studiobananathings.com





Post-wobble processing **STEADXP**

The SteadXP takes a new approach in the market for video stabilisation. No bulky gimbals here — rather, its movement sensors record what we're calling a 'wobble track' synchronised with your footage. Back at base, the software levels out your video. It works with GoPro and DLSRs that have a video-out.

€170 / msteadxp.com





Lazy lube SCOTTOILER CYCLE S1

Motorcyclists often use a Scottoiler system to keep the chains on their machines running smoothly. And now there's to be a cycle version. But surely anyone who doesn't love their bike enough to oil the chain also doesn't love it enough to spend a fortune on a chain-oiling system? Hmmm...

£130 / scottoiler-cycle.com

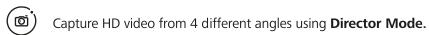
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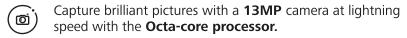




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#IgniteP8 consumer.huawei.com/za









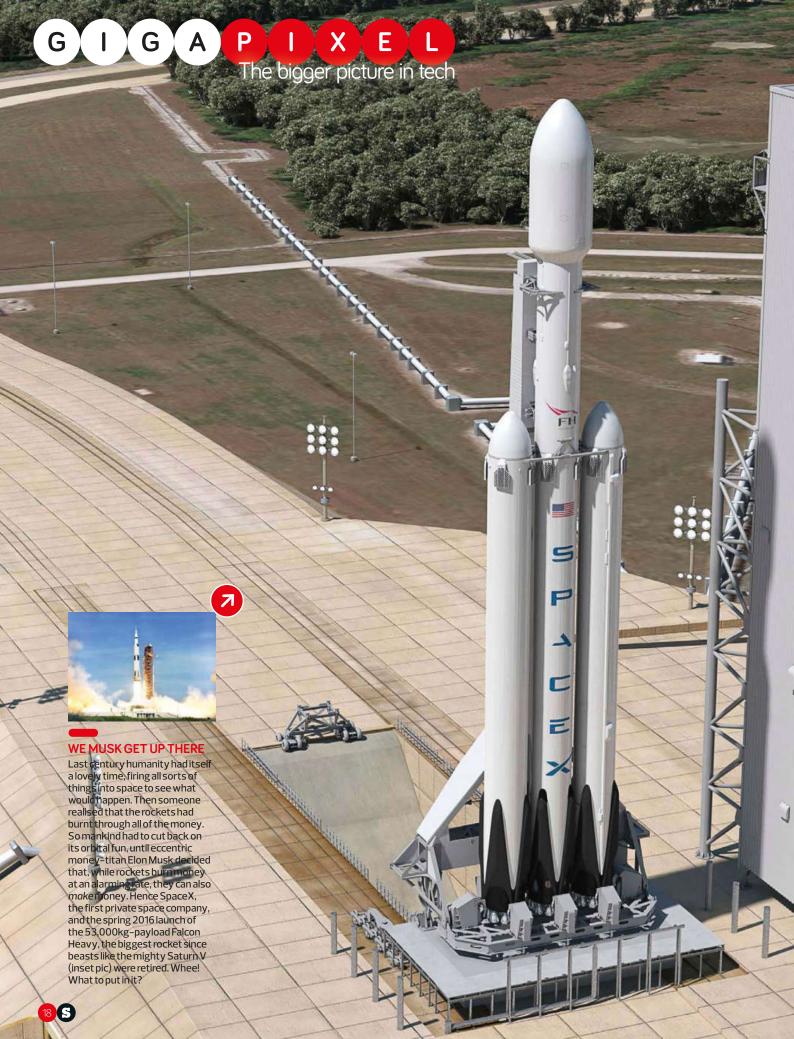
















NEWS FEED



MORPHEUS IS GONE

Sony has renamed its Project Morpheus headset as Play Station VR. A nonemore-Japanese launch vid shows gamers piloting giant mech warriors, cooing at beautiful fish and dancing to J-pop. PS VR is likely to launch before Oculus Rift, though the exact date is not yet known.



ANDROID WEAR WORKS ON IPHONES

Google has released an app on the iOS App Store that lets you pair Android Wear watches with your iPhone. The Huawei Watch, Asus ZenWatch 2 and LG Watch Urbane will all sync, although — as with Gmail and Google's other iOS apps—they'll work better with an Android.



SA GETS ANOTHER STREAMER

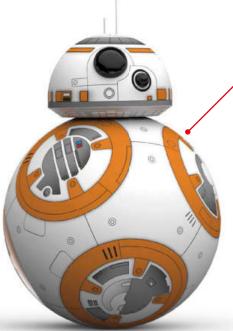
ONTAPtv.com (note the caps) is the new name you want to watch out for, a Hong Kong-based a la carte streaming service that has just hit SA. Packages start from R70pm, with rentals starting at R15 per item.



What does Odin use to charge his tablet? ALLDOCK

Forgive the extremely bad joke if you can. It went over really well in Scandinavia in the 900s, not so effective here. But the Alldock is quite effective if you're looking to charge several devices at once without creating a wire octopus — and we all have several devices that have to be charged at once. Save space (and lives — the fight for the charger can get bloody) with the German-designed, Kickstarter-funded Alldock and tis many charging slots. It's available in two sizes, Medium and Large (the Small is what we technical folk refer to as a 'wire') and in black or white plastic, or a bamboo finish.





WTF? A droid toy with a bobbling noggin

Starballs SPHERO BB-8

Furbies, Robosapiens, Boglins — the Christmastoy hall of fame rewards innovation, but will the appeal of the marvellous BB–8 have faded by the time *The Force Awakens* opens on 18 December? We'll certainly have dislodged its magnetic head by driving it off things by then. The cutely designed Android or iOS app gives you that ability, as well as sending it off to 'patrol' on its own. Only time will tell whether we'll send Dad (aka *Stuff's* editor) out to get us another if it breaks. R2800 / istoreonline.co.za

FUTURE STUFF SUPER SENSORS

We're blinded by some amazing photo stats

As you probably tire of us telling you, it's unwise to conflate the number of megapixels on a camera's sensor with its image quality. There are so many other factors to consider, such as the quality of the lens, the image processing engine... hang on, though. We've just had word of a 250MP sensor. Objectivity leaps out of the window.

Yes, Canon has developed a CMOS camera sensor with approximately 250 million pixels, capable of generating an image of 19,580x12,600 pixel resolution. That's apparently crispy enough to read the lettering on the side of an aircraft that's 18km away from the photographer. Mar vellous. And full marks for logical thinking, but no, the sensor itself is not the size of a cinema screen. It's actually smaller than the full–frame sensor found in many DSLRs: a 29.2x20.2mm size that Canon is calling APS-H.

But that aeroplane scenario hints at the expected end user of such a sensor: not consumer cameras, but specialist, government or industrial equipment.







Which is probably for the best, says your bank manager. Canon had to develop an enormously powerful processor to handle the input from all those pixels. And what do the words 'develop' and 'powerful' add up to? Big money is what.

Nonetheless (having established that you can't get it, can't afford it, and probably don't want it), this is exciting. We look forward to future cameras where you take a single holiday snap then just crop bits out of it for the family album.

SAMSUNG

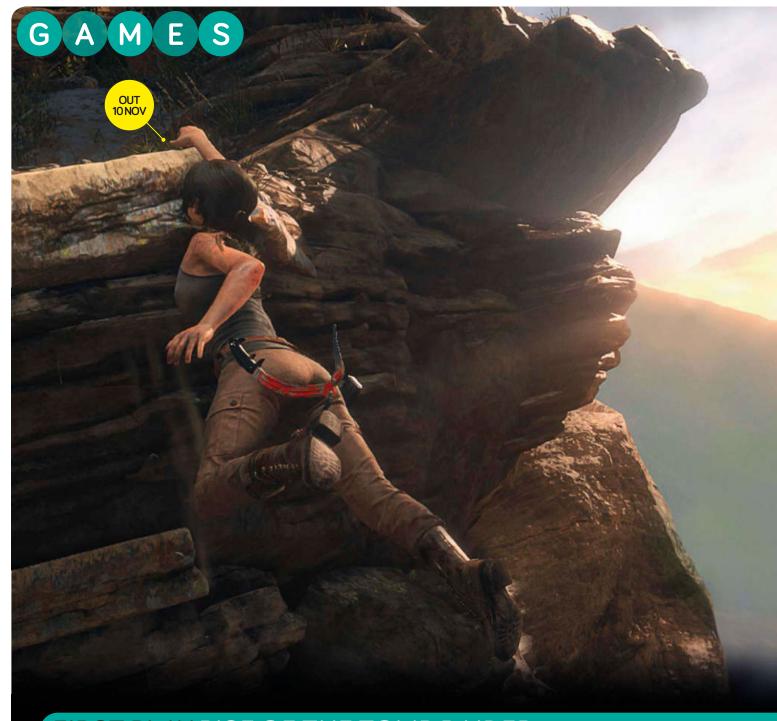


Galaxy Note5

NEXT IS NOW







FIRST PLAY RISE OF THE TOMB RAIDER Xbox One, Xbox 360

The Tomb Raider reboot in 2013 was a gritty redux of the artefact-nabbing franchise, but it was the game's labyrinthine playgrounds that kept the brain cogs whirring for hour after hour. Can Rise... repeat the feat? As we guide Ms Croft through

As we guide Ms Croft through thick snow towards an icy peak, the visual gains of a next-gen console are clear. Of course, this is *Tomb Raider*, so before too long the mountain face starts to crumble and our heroine must jump and swing back and forth to reach stable sanctuary. It's not quite *Mirror's Edge*, but

Lara certainly feels nimble and athletic. A few pesky quicktime events later, we're safe.

Her new 'survival instincts' tool helps point you towards a puzzle's solution. At first it feels a bit dirty, as if you've cheated, but as the chambers increase in complexity you'll appreciate the prod in the right direction.

Lara also has some new nonlethal skills that can be used to sneak past baddies rather than taking them all down. We use the cover of bushes to infiltrate a Soviet compound. It makes Lara effectively invisible, in spite of her distinctly not-bush-coloured red jacket, plus she can toss any detritus she finds lying around to distract guards — that old gaming chestnut.

Finally wereach the heart of the compound. Rickety towers and weathered rope reach out in every direction and for almost an hour we explore, finding some areas inaccessible (for now). With its delicately tiered puzzles that require patient experimentation, tense Indiana Jones—esque set pieces and superbly deployed mysticism, Rise... is shaping up to be textbook Tomb Raider.





FRESH FROM THE TOYKO GAME SHOW

UMBRELLA CORPS

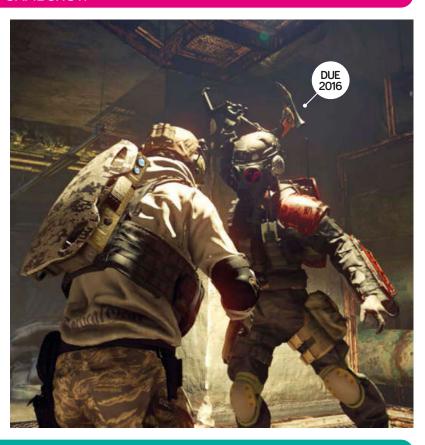
PS4. PC

Resident Evil games normally shuffle along at a speed akin to the undead that hide round each of its gloomy corners, but this online-only offshoot appears to be an entirely different, if equally brain-hungry, beast.

Named after the shady corporation that caused the zombie outbreak in the original game, the premise is preposterous — although that's hardly unique in gaming. The Umbrella Corporation is no more, but other nefarious companies have carried on experimenting with biological weapons, testing them in squadbased battles in restricted areas, like a real-life Laser Quest.

That means you get to run around a grotty multistorey car park with a gas mask, a gun and an extra tactical item to help your cause, such as a nasty-looking cross between a scythe and an ice axe that can be stored conveniently in the squishy skull of a passing zombie.

You'll also be competing against human opponents in the fast-paced team deathmatches, the toughest of which is in One Life Match mode — an S+D affair that means once you're zombie fodder, it's game over.



GAMES FOR YOUR NEW APPLE TV



RAYMAN ADVENTURES

Rayman often gets overlooked when talk turns to the greatest platformers but his recent output is easily comparable to Mario's (and the less said about Sonic the better). Adventures will soon make its way to Apple TV, so you can help the Incrediballs find their missing eggs and grow the biggest tree on the big screen.



GT SPIRIT

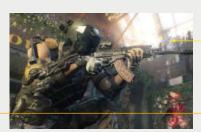
Way before Forza Horizon did it, 2006's Test Drive Unlimited let you loose in an open world with a rip-snorting motor. GT Spirit is from the same studio, so you can expect to blast your way through mountain passes while competing against your friends. Car manufacturers involved include Nissan, Chevrolet and McLaren.



BEAT SPORTS

While Activision has made a full—on version of *Guitar Hero Live* for Apple TV, *Rock Band* maker Harmonix has created a collection of music—based mini—games loosely based on sports including golf and volleyball. Think *Wii Sports* meets *Just Dance*, where you whack away balls thrown by a one—eyed space aubergine in a baseball cap.





INCOMING

NOVEMBER

- CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS 3
- FALLOUT 4
- FOOTBALL MANAGER 2016
- STAR WARS BATTLEFRONT

DECEMBER

- JUST CAUSE 3
- RAINBOW SIX: SIEGE

This month's mobile must-downloads









if you go to

a major toy shop and ask

for toys to do with magic,

Marvin's will

be the products

you are shown.

We can't test

this claim, for we are banned

from Toys R Us, after what happened last time with that remote-control helicopter. Were we able to, we'd perhaps see that Marvin's latest release is this box of tricks, including

peripherals such as a deck of cards and cups.

But it's the

corresponding

app that brings

everything to life, with video

tutorials and

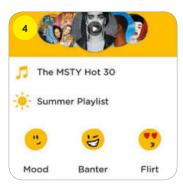
augmented

reality tricks using the provided props.

Just the thing

for a budding

trickster to













3 Giphy Cam

1Sprinter Free / iOS

Its description as a 'Tinder for workout buddies' made us wary, but the theory is sound. Sprinter works with HealthKit, letting you build up energy points that let you swipe and message other users.

2 Splyce Free / iOS, Android

Now finally on Android, Splyce will let you rack up hot mixes using BPM ordering, customised song durations and transitions. It only works with your onboard tracks, but Spotify access is in the works.

Free / iOS For those rare emotional scenarios

that cannot be suitably summed up by a pre-existing GIF found on the internet, this app lets you create custom GIFs with loads of layers and effects.

4 MSTY

Free / iOS

It stands for My Song To You, which refers to a choice of several thousand pop song clips you can attach to a picture and message to someone. What's new? The music labels are involved, so it's all legit.

5 VHS Camcorder

R55/iOS

Oh, of course: "I just made it for fun." "I never thought my retro video app would be so popular." "Gosh, look at all this money." We can see right through you, pseudo-surprised app developers.

6 Citymapper Free / iOS, Android

The navigapp can now tell you which part of the train to get on so you're near the exit when you get off. So next time you're in Paris, London or Barcelona you won't waste more time commuting than necessary.

7 Star Wars: Uprising Free / iOS, Android

A film's a film, there's no messing. But the other bits are totally up for imagining, and Uprising is the mobile RPG of the bit between Jedi and The Force Awakens. Loads of locations and classes, but IAPs look plentiful.

8 Ski Safari 2

Free / iOS

This endless scroller doesn't restrict itself to jumping and tricking on snow. Prepare to ski the sands of the Wild West, on a motorbike, with a pterodactyl. Somehow it all works.

9 Galactic Keep

In the works for over six years, and it shows in the production quality of the graphics. But this dice-rolling, turn-based space game isn't for fast just-ten-minutes-in-the-bog visits - it asks a little more of you.





HOW CAN WE MAKE TECH EASY FOR YOU?







OUR REWARDS PARTNERS







NEXT-LEVEL **PERFORMANCE**

When you buy a high-end machine, you've graduated to the next level. It's less about price and more about performance. This is one time when you really do get what you pay for. The HP Spectre is ultra-thin, light and opens in 360 degrees. With a blazing-fast processor you can be assured that your device will keep up with every demand you place on it.





MB&F ARACHNOPHOBIA

from R220 000 / mbandf.com

Great. A clock that I'm physically afraid of.

Spooky, isn't it? Whirring and spitting and bundling up your nan in a silken sack.

Do spiders like Indian flatbread?

Two ⁱa's in naan, you little chapati. And there are also two 'a's in 'inaccurate', which is to say that this clock doesn't whirr or spit or wrap up anyone's relatives for slow digestion. What it does do is sit on your desk — or more strikingly on your wall — and scare the heebs and jeebs out of unsuspecting house guests. While telling the time.

Are spiders renowned for their time-telling?

They ought to be. After all, they spend half their days watching humans destroying their webs,

saying, "I spent bloody ages making that, you dolt." But this clock is more about spiders than time — it's inspired by the 10m-tall spider sculpture by Louise Bourgeois. As if a 10m-tall spider wasn't creepy enough, Bourgeois called it Maman — 'mum' in French. MB&F wasn't weirded out by that, though, and has created this homage; and, as clocks are their thing, they made it a clock.

Quite a fancy bit of clockery, too.

Oh, quite. The mechanism is made by French clock artistes L'Epée. It's mechanical, so you're going to have to go near your freaky clock about once every eight days to wind it. Probably mantra-ing to yourself, "It's not going to jump, it's not going to jump." There are two versions of the Arachnophobia: badass black, or 18K gold-plated for a few thousand Rands more.







DALIZENSOR 1 AX & 5 AX

These look just like speakers. They are speakers! But they're active speakers: hidden inside one of each pair — we won't tell you which — is a power supply and a 2x50-Watt digital amp. It accepts music via Bluetooth or digital optical cable and amplifies it both to its own drivers and, via standard cable, to the other speaker. Both models are available in standmount and floorstanding versions; either way, you can spend hours tinkering with their positioning to create a perfect stereo sweet spot, and yah boo sucks to anyone else who wants to listen. R4600,R10000 / ultrasound.co.za







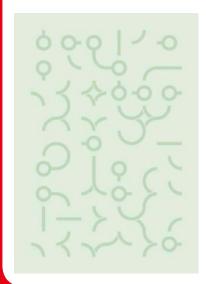
☑DROP EVERYTHING & DOWNLOAD

Infinite Loop

Free / Android, iOS / loopgame.co

We've been itching for a low-commitment, high-stimulation mobile game we can play in post office queues and other places that combine the chores of adulthood with having to wait for things. Enter Infinite Loop (or ∞ Loop, to use its official nomenclature), a puzzler that presents you with a jumble of five type of lines, curves and connectors and asks that you rotate them to make a continuous line with no loose ends.

The first few levels are easy enough, but once the designs get more intricate they can take far longer than you'd expect. Once you've solved a puzzle you can take a picture of the solution, which is more often than not an image that looks like it wouldn't be out of place as the logo for a zero-gravity yoga class. Once the predesigned levels run out the game begins generating new ones algorithmically... which means its endless. You need never be bored again.





It's the Mark II, mark you OLYMPUS OM-D E-M10 MARK II

In Olympus model numerology, the E-M10 is a lower-class camera than, say, the E-M5. And yet the 'Mark II' part indicates ascending desirability. The headline phrase for this new version is five-axis in-body image stabilisation, upgraded from a three-axis system in the Mark I. It also gets a betterer 2360k OLED electronic viewfinder. Otherwise, we're looking at the same compact and tough entry-level Micro Four Thirds camera, with a 16.1MP Live MOS sensor and TruePic VII processing engine. Video is improved, from 1080p/30fps to 1080p/60fps with a 4K timelapse mode. All in, if you can get your head around the idea that '10' is not as good as '5', but 'II' is better than 'I', it's a fine package.

Rtba/za.olympus-mea.com



Keep your hands to yourself, Bond OMEGA SEAMASTER 300 SPECTRE

"You MI6 men are all the same" she says. "Former SAS types with easy smiles and expensive watches... Rolex?" No, you reply, and show her your Pebble. Open-source, so Q can code some nice little apps for it without needing to cause a spike on the department's budget. Even spies are accountable, come the end of the tax year. Oh, hang on, there was a watch: a natty Omega Seamaster with a NATO-style striped strap, limited to 7007 pieces. But that's just a marketing thing, for the Spectre film. Not the sort of watch that civil servants really wear. Now let's have a look on my Pebble's TripAdvisor app and find somewhere cheap for dinner with Miss Moneypenny...

R90000 / omegawatches.com

DECIPHERALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN...



#7THE OPEN MEDIA ALLIANCE

Remember all that hoo-hah about Apple not supporting Flash, and everyone scuttling about with multiple video codecs just to make their websites work? Fun times. But that must have all got sorted out, because everything works now. Right?

Wrong. Simply put, things were mashed together and a whole bunch of money got made by people licensing codecs such as H.264. And that money is still being made; you're probably paying for some of it by shelling out for phones or video subscriptions. Wiki up MPEG LA, the company that manages the patents, for an idea of who's involved.

And then bring yourself back to a healthy simmer with the news that a collective of tech service providers have formed the Open Media Alliance. Its goal is to create a video standard that is royalty-free and open, and will work on any device. An admirable task, given that Alliance members include Google,

ITS GOAL IS TO CREATE A VIDEO STANDARD THAT'S ROYALTY-FREE AND WILL WORK ON ANY DEVICE

Microsoft, Netflix, Intel, Amazon and Mozilla. And well timed, because we're all going to want to start streaming 4K videos soon, and it'd be nice to do that without incurring extra costs.

There are many hurdles to overcome, but the chief concern is the missing name 'Apple'. A free, open codec can only work if it's the only one that service providers like Netflix need stream in. Thrumpty billion iDevices not supporting it would relegate the project to a woulda-coulda-shoulda paragraph on that Wiki page.



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id you know "tech-car" is a thing? A whole category, like SUV or hothatch or luxury sedan? I didn't, until recently. It makes sense, though. These days, motor manufacturers face off in the gadget stakes as much as they do in performance, safety or economy ones. Mercedes-Benz has ensured every new S-class is the pinnacle of accessible motoring technology; the cars now have a thing that monitors your first few minutes of driving to see if you might be a bit tired and performing below your best. Ze car is vatching you, ja?

These days we can tell cars to park themselves, talk to our GPS, even get electronic reminders to check the tyres when we fill up (which we should be doing every time anyway. Seriously, it's really important). Heck, back-facing cameras are so common you even get them in some rental cars now.

There are a bunch of things I would love to see improved, though. First, why don't cars already run Android or iOS

natively? Android Auto is a thing, but it's still a tack-on. You need to upgrade your car after the fact and not all cars can support it. Lots of car brands are using their own, home built "apps". Generally, car computing systems are lame and clunky, and have interfaces designed by people who obviously don't like interfaces. It's like going from your Facebook timeline back to your MySpace page.

Can I not have a folder of apps called "Car" and then have it link my Google Maps, music library, messages and so forth all in one go? Why stop there? Why not let me access my car from my phone when I'm not in it? On a scorching day I should be able to signal my car from my phone that I'm-atthe-till-at-Builders-Warehouseso-can-you-please-turn-the-AC-on-already! I know you can get this on some cars, but not on ones I can afford.

I also then want a proper HUD to interact with. Looking down at your inbuilt dash-screen or the little after-market GPS plugged into your lighter is still changing

your depth of focus and taking your eyes off the road. It's still dangerous. I know HUDs are slowly coming in, but I can't wait for them to be everywhere.

I want my car to be a dongle, too. It must be online of it's own accord. BMW unleashed what seems an incredibly cool new system that will unpark your car and come and pick you up. Now we're talking! Imagine being able to arrive at a local mega-mall, simply get out at the entrance and leave your car to find parking on its own. I'd pay for that.

Perhaps the most exciting thing in car tech today is the selfdriving work being done by the likes of Apple and Google. Four states in the US have already passed laws allowing driverless cars onto the road, the first as far back as 2011. I can't wait for selfdriving cars. Traffic will flow better, fuel economy will improve, average speeds can improve, and typical accidents and collisions should (in theory) simply cease to be. In fact, according to head Googler, Sergey Brin, the only time Google cars

have been in a crash is when humans have been operating them or the vehicle they collided with. Time saved? A whole season of The Big Bang Theory every week, watched while in traffic. I like driving, a lot of us do, but I think we may find we like not driving even more. Bring it on.



SPIN DOCTOR

Rob Forbes is a 5FM DJ who tweets about football, sports and music when he's not presenting, camped out in a casino waiting for people to let go of a car (long story) or raiding Stuff's storage cupboard. Catch him on 5FM between 13:00 and 16:00 every weekday.

IT'S ABOUT TO GET REAL

GUITAR HERO: UF

23 OCTOBER 2015



ACTIVISION

The secret of our 6s

Apple has introduced 3D Touch and an improved camera to the iPhone 6s, but is that enough tech to keep pace with the Android competition?

Rtba/apple.com

On first glance, the iPhone 6s doesn't look at all different from its predecessor. On every glance, in fact, the 6s is near-identical to the mega-selling iPhone 6.

Aside from the 's' on its rump and a slight weight gain that you won't notice, Jony Ive's ultra-thin curved aluminium design is still in place. And it looks as desirable as ever.

What's changed with the 6s is the finesse it's been lavished with: it's a subtly significant upgrade. The more durable glass and metal make the 6s less prone to scratches – bye bye #bendgate. Its new A9 processor with builtin M9 motion chip is blisteringly speedy, although Samsung's S6 is faster. It also has a new 12MP camera that captures 4K video and moving Live Photos (or GIFs, as we all know them).

Most significant of all is 3D Touch, a new gesture for iPhone using haptic feedback. You might have encountered it via Force Touch on the Watch or MacBook. It's simple, useful and oh so Apple. What else were you expecting?



1 The golden Touch

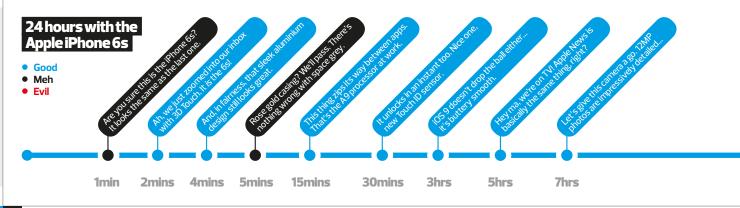
3D Touch gives you a preview of messages by pressing down on them and acts as a shortcut menu for other apps. You'll feel a buzz to let you know your touch has registered. Returning to our old iPhone 6, we found ourselves forlornly prodding it in vain.

2 Finally, more megapixels!

The 6s's updated 12MP camera captures sharper photos than the 6's 8MP effort, allowing you to zoom in and pick out the finer details in pictures. The Live Photos feature is also surprisingly delightful. Pity Facebook doesn't support it yet.

3 Chips off the old block

According to our tests, the 6s and its A9 processor proved nearly twice as fast as a year-old iPhone 6's A8 chip. That'll be reason enough for some to upgrade. Touch ID is doubly quick too: the moment you press Home, you're launched straight into your phone.



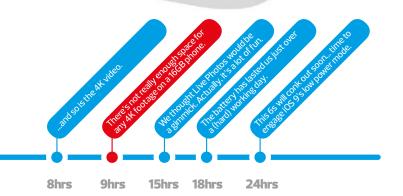


4 4K store bore

The 6s's 4K video is amazingly detailed, but it comes at a storage price. One minute of video will claw away 375MB, which will turn off owners of a 16GB model from using the feature. Spend more on a 64GB handset and you'll have no such trouble.

5 Battery flattery

Although the iPhone 6s sports a smaller 1715mAh battery than the iPhone 6, its performance is largely unchanged thanks to the power-economic magic of iOS 9. We pummelled the 6s with video and gaming apps for 10 hours and it still had a third of its life left.



Techspecs

Screen 4.7in/12cm Retina HD 1334x750 (326ppi) **OS** iOS 9 **Processor** Apple A9 **Cameras** 12MP rear, 5MP front **Battery** 1715mAh **Storage** 16/64/128GB **RAM** 2GB **Dimensions** 138x67x7.1mm **Weight** 143g

iOS9 explained

Apple's latest OS upgrade includes many features we've waited a long time for. Here's four of them:



Siri gets serious

The Siri Suggestions screen presents you with a search field (which you can use with either text or your voice) plus a panel of your most used contacts, local services and local news. Handy.



Almost Evernote

Notes finally lets you jot down just about anything into a page, from a Word doc to a PDF to a bookmark clipped from Safari. You can also switch between typing and drawing in seconds.



Smooth operator

Mercifully, iOS 9 is every bit as slick as iOS 8.4. Apps open and load quickly, and the swipe between homescreens is instantaneous. And that's a state of affairs that should only improve.



Read all about it

Replacing Newsstand, News plays back feeds from a host of popular publishers and presents them in a simple interface. If you've ever used Flipboard or Feedly, you'll feel at home.

The iPhone 6s takes what was already good about its predecessor and refines these features. The less brilliant stuff, like an average battery life and stingy 16GB storage option, remain in place; these flaws are more than balanced out by a fantastic camera, faster processor and more sturdy design. As for 3D Touch? It's sensational.

STUFF SAYS ****

All new on the inside, less so on the outside: the 6s is full of innovative finesse



Going on a cabin-cruise SAMSONITE ULTIMOCABIN

What's the one thing you need at an airport, besides a device that jumps you to the front of every line? Security for your carry-on luggage, obviously. Enter the Ultimocabin, where the clue is in the name. If you're looking to keep your bits uncrushed, while making sure that everything is simple to find when that burly customs agent wants it all, then the Ultimocabin lineup is for you. The lock is TSA-approved, for when they check out your bags but nobody else should be getting in. Even you, if you forget your key/combination. R3600/samsonite.co.za



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- Integrated smart remote and microphone
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and microphone

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Water coolest ASUS ROG GX700

Upuntil... now!... you were happily locked into the apex of the never–ending curve that is the progression of personal computing. But that was then. A moment ago, you thought the Alienware 17 with its mains–powered external graphics card was the very pinnacle of crazy gaming laptops, not realising you had actually slipped a little behind the curve. Luckily, now you have seen this Asus GX700, and clawed yourself back. It is the world's first laptop with a water–cooled graphics attachment. The detailed specs are still just around corner, but right now we know it uses Nvidia graphics and has a 17in/43cm 4K IPS display. You are up to date!

Rtba/asus.com/za



Italian lens flair LEICA ULTRAVID 8x32 EDITION ZAGATO

An internet survey on hipness asked us if we owned our own binoculars, and we said yes. "Win!" it trumpeted. But in truth, we don't. Like so many internet surveyees, or a generation of *Fighting Fantasy* gamers, we answered the way the narrative led us. But the seed is planted: now we want some binos — and as luck would have it, Leica's just dropped some. You might recognise the Zagato name from its '80s and '90s design work on the likes of Aston Martins, Lamborghinis and fast Fiats. A car glovebox being the spiritual home of a pair of long-seers, this seems a fitting match, and the gnurled finish looks very groovy indeed.

from R52000 / leica-camera.com



WTF IS A SPACE GLASS?

Is it a scented candle? I do love those.

In a way, it is scented — with booze. Recently, for reasons described as 'science', some small samples of whisky were sent on a return trip to the ISS. (There's no point joking about the astronauts drinking it, as we know they are all unemotional machines and thus unteasable.) Scotch whisky brand Ballantine's, no doubt bummed that it wasn't picked, has put some of its money to work designing a glass for drinking in space.

Liquids in zero-gee? That sounds potentially disastrous.

Yep, due to the bizarre ways that liquids move in low gravity, the space glass required a bit more engineering than just a 3D-printed sippy cup. At the centre is a domed reservoir with a spiral convex baseplate. The pattern creates surface tension on the 'blob' of whisky, thereby holding it at the bottom of the glass.

And from there directly to my expectant tastebuds?

The outer portion of the glass contains a helix channel connected to a mouthpiece at the rim. The whisky flows up this channel from the baseplate, ready to be supped gently. The design also prevents spillage during zero-gravity decanting by featuring a one-way valve to the reservoir in which the nozzle of a bottle can be inserted. Of course, without the assistance of gravity, some gentle spinning is required to encourage the whisky to make its way inside the glass.

Sounds great, but my Virgin Galactic tickets have yet to be gifted to me. Can I use it on Earth?

Yes, in that it will effectively allow you to drink fluid on Earth. No, in that it's an incredibly unwieldy piece of kit. The base and mouthpiece are constructed from super-unreactive rose gold, so as not to affect the taste of the whisky. At the very bottom of the glass there is a hefty magnet that assists in docking the nozzle of a bottle. Light as a feather in space, but on Earth, a baby elephant.

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THE MOST AMAZING THINGS IN THE WORLD TODAY



SCANNING DESKTOP P44

FROM THE **TECHIEST CARS** THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN, TO THE PLANET'S MOST BLEEDING-EDGE **GADGETS** AND THE HOW-DO-THEY-DO-THAT **APPS** THEY RUN, NOT FORGETTING THE GREATEST GAMES, PLACES, **FILMS** AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN...





GETTING ARTY WITH WATER



SELF-

DRIVING

VEHICLES

It seems we're

finally ready to

go driverless:

prototypes of

the Google Self-

Driving Car and

the Freightliner

out on American

human error out

of driving may be

kind of unsexy,

but it'll save a LOT of lives.

google.com/

selfdrivingcar

Inspiration

autonomous truck are already

roads. Taking



DOT BRAILLE SMARTWATCH

The Dot is a potential life-changer: a smart watch that displays physical Braille dots, so the visually impaired can read notifications and texts. Yes, in the future. blind people will be able to waste just as much time on Facebook as everyone else. fingerson. strikingly.com



REVERSE GRAFFITI

This technique (aka 'clean tagging' and 'grime writing') has seen artists like Paul 'Moose' Curtis create huge murals by doing nothing more than blasting dirt from public landmarks with a jet wash. Naturally, tech companies like Microsoft and Nissan have started using it for guerrilla marketing.



OPEN BIONICS

There are over 10 million amputees worldwide, but good prosthetic limbs cost tens of thousands of dollars. Using 3D printing, Open Bionics is creating light, strong, personally tailored robotic hands at a tiny fraction of the price. If there's a better use of robotics, we've yet to see it.

openbionics.com



EX MACHINA

Alex Garland's dystopian tale of a humanoid Al's attempts to pass a Turing test ticks off countless items on the sci-fi checklist but never becomes predictable or drifts into lazy cliché. In fact, Ava (Alicia Vikander) is so convincing as the robot. you'll probably start questioning her humanity yourself. exmachinamovie.com



GOOGLE PROJECT SUNROOF

Using an astonishing combination of data (including 3D modelling of your roof and historical cloud patterns), this project can tell you exactly how much you'll save by installing solar panels on your roof. It's US-only for now, but has worldwide ambitions. google.com/ get/sunroof

STUFF THAT'S CLEVER



USB-C

It's super-fast and supports charging. But the big USP?

GOOGLE PHOTOS

This app sorts your pictures into different categories in the cloud. Don't ask how. It's magic.

BE MY EYES

An ingenious iOS app that pairs visually impaired users with volunteers over a live video chat.

TOMTOM BANDIT

This action camera automatically generates a rough highlights edit ready to show off to the world.

SWINCAR (swincar.fr)

Four wheels fixed on articulating 'arms' can handle practically any terrain and keep you upright.

DOLBY ATMOS

A full speaker array means sound emerges from all over the cinema Also available for vour living room



LAPIERRE E:I SHOCK AUTO

Twenty years of tweakery have enabled fullsuspension mountain bikes to climb and descend with equal poise and minimal effort. The E:I Shock Auto system adds accelerators and actuators that open or close the suspension based on the terrain. R62 000 / lapierre-bikes. co.uk



SPOTIFY DISCOVER WEEKLY

Spotify's Discover Weekly playlist is like having a buddy make you a mixtape every Monday morning, but with your friend not only knowing pretty much every song ever recorded, but having them in his record collection ready to share. He's got pretty good taste, too. play.spotify.com



VOLVO LIFEPAINT

This is surely something of a must-have for cyclists a transparent spray that turns almost any material into a bright reflective surface when car lights bounce off it. If you can resist spraying rude words on your neighbours' cars, the practical applications could be life-saving. volvolifepaint.



SHAZAM

One of the few apps to have over 200 million downloads, Shazam is a genuine must-download. Being able to find out the name of a song and the artist from just a couple of seconds of music — and then add it directly to a Spotify playlist — will make sure you never miss out on a catchy tune.

Free / shazam.com







SOUND OF POWER ST VLADIMIR

Fortunately for the future of the planet there's only one Vladimir Putin (although don't bet against him building a clone army), but Sound Of Power has made 100 of its Vlad-shaped speakers to make up for it. Who knows how good it sounds, but it's certainly a talking point at dinner. sound-of-power.



JAGUAR F-TYPE COUPE

Jaguar's F-Type Coupe isn't electric, it doesn't drive itself and it can't fly (although it's so fast it sometimes feels like it could), but of all the cars we've driven in the past year, there's something about the F-Type that's impossible to shake off. If only it was the price tag.

from R916 000 / jaguar.co.za



PURRS I IKF A 260KM/H

IMOGEN HEAP'S MI.MU GLOVES

They look like a gimmick until you see them in action, when you realise the gloves are an intrinsic part of Heap's live performance. Gestural controls give her intuitive command over playback and effects. Freeing the artist from hardware, Mi.Mu breaks down barriers between musician and machine.



B&O **MOMENT**

It sounds more like a new low-fat chocolate bar than a high-end hi-fi, but try to bite off a section of B&O's chunky Moment and you'll be shelling out the cost of another one (a hefty R42 400) for dental fees. Still, at least you'll have a nice streamer to distract you from the pain. R42 400 / bangolufsen.com



THE RETURN OF THE TECHNICS TURNTABLE

TC TONEPRINT

guitar pickup. Absurdly, it works.

A '90s producer would be left in

ISIS KARAOKE

PRO-JECT ESSENTIAL II

Old-school record deck, nu-skool

STUFF THAT SOUNDS GOOD



NAIM MU-SO

The Naim Mu-so is quite clearly very cool, even if you've no idea what it actually does. But as you've asked, it's an all-in-one music system that combines all of Naim's many decades of hi-fi experience with the latest in streaming. It'll play anything, from Spotify to hi-res studio masters. R30 000 / signals.co.za



COMPUTICKET

Noticed that there are more international artists heading to SA these days? We did too, which is why the Computicket app has found a new home on our phones. Book early with it, even though the drinks will be gone by 10 on the day. Always happens. You'd think that they'd stock extra beer. Free / iOS,



TEACHING SIRI YOUR NAME

Siri already knows your name but there's more fun to be had teaching it a different one. Perhaps you've always wanted to be known as David "The Hair" Hasselhoff but your parents wouldn't let you change it as a child. Just tell Siri what you'd rather be called and stage one of your transformation is complete.



HOW MUSIC GOT FREE BY STEPHEN WITT

You wouldn't think codec chat would make for a thrilling read, but Witt's book about how we went from CDs to MPfreebies, largely thanks to one guy, is illuminating and nostalgic in equal measure, particularly if your know your AAC from your OGG Vorbis. R300 / amazon.com



SONOS

It's 2015 and wires should be extinct. Sonos's elegant wireless speakers spread across the house. letting you throw the teenage house party of your dreams with only your phone to DJ from. They look good, they sound good and they network so easily that you can add to your collection when funds allow. from R5 000 / ultrasound.co.za



YAMAHA R-N602

Old-fashioned '70s-style hi-fi meets new-fashioned music streaming in this amp which combines big, satisfying switches and aluminium so coarsely brushed you could file your nails on it, with MusicCast tech allowing you to play through any source that's connected. R11 000 (import) / yamaha.com

Android





TECHNOLOGY WILL SAVE US

The tech you can make is not as advanced as the tech you can buy. Such is life. But the tech you make gives vou a better understanding of the tech you buy: how to use it, how to fix it, how to avoid buying what we in the techosphere like to call an 'Amazon Fire Phone's techwillsaveus. com



ZURI 01

The best thing most people ever make out of a sheet of A4 is a feeble paper aeroplane, but Hamburg's Zoobotics have raised the bar so high you'd need a telescope to see it. Its Zuri 01 kit comes with everything you need to build a 'bot, which includes nothing more than paper and cardboard for the body. zoobotics.de



FORMLABS FORM 1+

The 3D printing dream is a miniature production line in the cupboard under the stairs. The 3D printing reality is usually slow and disappointing. Not so with Formlabs' Form 1+, speedily and consistently churning out stuff that's so detailed it looks even better than the machine itself.

R44 000 / formlabs.com



MECCANO HOME FURNITURE

If you're going to put most of your furniture together anyway, why not relive the joys of building Meccano models? The range has everything from a TV cabinet to an outdoor bench or even a lamp. Your whole house could look like it's home to a family of miniature toy people. meccanohome.



GIPHY CAM

As the human race descends into a subspecies that communicates exclusively in emojis and GIFs, Giphy Cam is your new mouthpiece. It makes creating a GIF as easy as shooting a quick video, and you can garnish it with all kinds of meme-worthy graphics and effects for added lolz. Free / iOS



THIS HOMEMADE CONTROL PANEL

This is how any self-respecting geek should be controlling their computer from now on. With over 100 programmable buttons and switches (plus sound effects) it's the stuff geek dreams are made of (mainly LEDs, Arduinos and USB controllers). bit.ly/computer_ control_panel

STUFF TO MAKE

com



PROJECT ARA

Building your own phone is a bad idea, unless it's Google's amazing clicky-magnet futuro-device.

ARNOLDC

This programming language replaces common commands with Schwarzenegger one-liners

BLURB

The best service we've used for turning digital photos into a hardback book of memories

LEGO FERRARI F40

This costs considerably less than a full-size one, and is significantly easier to place on an office shelf.

100 PAPER PLANES TO FOLD & FLY (amazon.com)
The most satisfying way to fly without shelling out for a ticket.

PORTABLE R2-D2 PS4

We'd punch an ewok in the face to own one of these consoles. Seriously, bring us an ewok.



RASPBERRY PI 2

Yes, you can build a NAS, a media player, a stratospherepenetrating robot balloon or ocean-navigating vessel with a R500 Raspberry Pi 2. Or you can simply enjoy the fact that you've got a Windows 10-running mini-PC for less than the cost of that last round of drinks. R500 /

za.rs-online.com



IKEA WIRELESS CHARGING FURNITURE

Where we're going, we don't want wires. Ikea has the right idea, building wireless charging points into some of its new furniture: bedside tables and lamps that can re-juice your phone with a simple touch. And they actually look quite nice, which is a bonus. Rtba / ikea.co



NUTRIBULLET

The very latest must-have for faddy foodies, Nutribullet nulverises fruit and veg into a smoothie - even the stems, seeds and gnarly bits you usually chuck out. Yes, it's a blender. But it uses 'bullet cyclonic action', making it super-quick, and it's a breeze to clean. R2 000 / buy nutribullet.co.za



3DOODLER 2

Definitely not for meetings, otherwise they're going to see your boredom turn into a 3D sculpture. Regardless of how pretty that bicycle or pizza you've made is, they're not going to be happy. But for arty types, this is like having a 3D printer in your palm. R1800/ 3dprinting systems.co.za

FANCY FLATPACK PHONE FUELLING

Apple may have a desktop with a 5K screen, but HP's bonkers all-in-one feels more like a Thing From The Future. Why? Not because it's more powerful or has a better display or anything like that, but because it acts as a bridge between the physical and the digital worlds. Put something in front of it and the Sprout will scan it into itself as a 3D model. Reshape, resize and rethink, then send it to your 3D printer, and it'll squirt it back out into hardspace. The unashamedly experimental Sprout represents exactly the kind of risk-taking, imaginative gadgeteering we love. Rtba / hp.com









DOUBLE NEGATIVE

From the black hole in Interstellar to Ex Machina's creepily realistic Al android Ava. if there's a scene in a film that's made you go 'wow' recently, it's probably down to Dneg. Interstellar's black hole was so convincing there was an article published about it in the American Journal Of Physics. dneg.com



ALTO'S ADVENTURE

We've played loads of onethumb leapy games, but none have as much style as Alto's. Dynamic weather and lighting make it a visual feast, and the fluid movement turns the simple idea of bombing down mountains doing backflips into some genuinely satisfying gameplay. R28 / altos adventure.com



OLYMPUS OM-D E-M10 MARK II

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Cameras are Goldilocks gadgets: to get a lot of good pictures you want something with a big sensor but a small body, a solid build but a throw-in-a-bag price, a host of controls but also speed and simplicity. The new E-M10 is, in all these ways, just right. Rtba / olympus.co.za



#### **APPLE MACBOOK**

The MacBook isn't the best laptop Apple makes — that would be the 13in/33cm Pro. It's possible to buy two very good Windows 10 devices for its R20 000 asking price.
But this ultra-thin 12in/30.5cm machine, with its luscious screen and haptic touchpad, is also the laptop we want the most.

R20 000 / apple.com/za



#### **EARTH VIEW**

As brilliant as Google Earth is, a lot of the planet is really quite boring to look at. Bloem, for example. Or most of the Karoo Earth View cuts all those bits out and just shows you a collection of the most peeper-pleasing chunks of landscape out there. And all without leaving your desk. earthview. withgoogle.com



#### GOOGLE CHROME-BOOK PIXEL

The new Chromebook Pixel only runs a single web browser. Just because this laptop has a screen with 4.3m pixels, a 12hr battery life, USB-C charging and a svelte aluminium body doesn't mean you have to go and buy it. But it might be an idea. R17 000 / google.com

## STUFF THAT LOOKS NICE



#### VOLVO XC90

A big SUV may look like an odd choice for the likes of Stuff, but the XC90 is a seriously techie motor. We particularly like the T8 version, which has an extremely clever, fast and efficient hybrid engine, and all models come with a super-smart, tablet-like infotainment system. from R804 000 / volvocars.co.za



# DEVIALET PHANTOM

If you think B&W's T7 is expensive for a Bluetooth speaker, it might be best to look away now. The Phantom might cost more than a small car but it is also almost as powerful as one. with 3000 Watts inside the Silver version. Oh, and it looks like some sort of futuristic escape pod. R30 000 / devialet.com



#### YAMAHA FJR1300

In theory, the FJR1300 is nothing special. It's not the fastest, it's not the lightest and it doesn't have any particular tech on board to make it pull a wheelie every time you wiggle your ears. But really, just look at it. Wouldn't you love to have that little beauty sitting in your driveway? R180 000 / yamaha.co.za





#### **MOTO 360**

The original Moto 360 was Android Wear's high watermark for some time, but with its improved processor and a dollop of extra RAM, we like the new version even more - plus it'll now work with iOS, so you can mix and match your phone to your wearable. And you can't do that with an Apple Watch. R3 000 / orange.com/za



#### **LG 65UF850T**

Sure there are bigger, better 4K TVs out there. We've even reviewed a few. But LG's webOS is better than ever and their price-per-pixel can't be beaten in the 65UF850T. LG have also created a remote so good that we decided to keep it. Looks like 65in/165cm screens do come cheap. R35 000 / lg.com/za





#### ADOBE LIGHTROOM

The photographer's best friend, whether you're selling snaps for thousands or an enthusiastic amateur using the presets and plug-ins to farm a few 'likes'.

#### EVERY FRAME A PAINTING

Being a director isn't just about causing Bayhem. This YouTube channel has insights into the visual tricks used by the best.

#### SONY ALPHA A7 II

It has taken three decades of continuous refinement, but the A7 II is small, light and, thanks to its huge full-frame sensor, capable of astonishing pictures

#### SONY ULTRA SHORT THROW PROJECTOR

The problem with 147in/373cm 4K TVs is they don't exist. This real box can sit at the base of a wall and project 4K video onto it



#### APPLE IPAD AIR 2

That Apple chose not to refresh the iPad Air 2 this year speaks volumes about just how good its flagship tablet is. Pitched at the perfect midpoint between the new Pro and Mini 4, the Air 2 is an ideal device for multitaskers - as good for Netflix as it is for Office docs on the go. from R7 500 / istoreonline.co.za



#### SANTA CRUZ STAR WARS COLLECTION

With packaging made to look like vintage toy boxes and designs depicting the brush with the Sarlacc Pit in Return Of The Jedi, you'll need some pretty serious mind tricks to convince somebody these are not the decks they're looking for. from R850 / santacruz skateboards.com



#### MOTOROLA MOTO X PLAY

As much as we wish we had access to the Moto Maker, it's not to be yet. But you can still get your hands on a new model Moto (noncustom, sadly) like the Moto X Play here if you know where to look.

And we know just where to look.

Now, so do you.

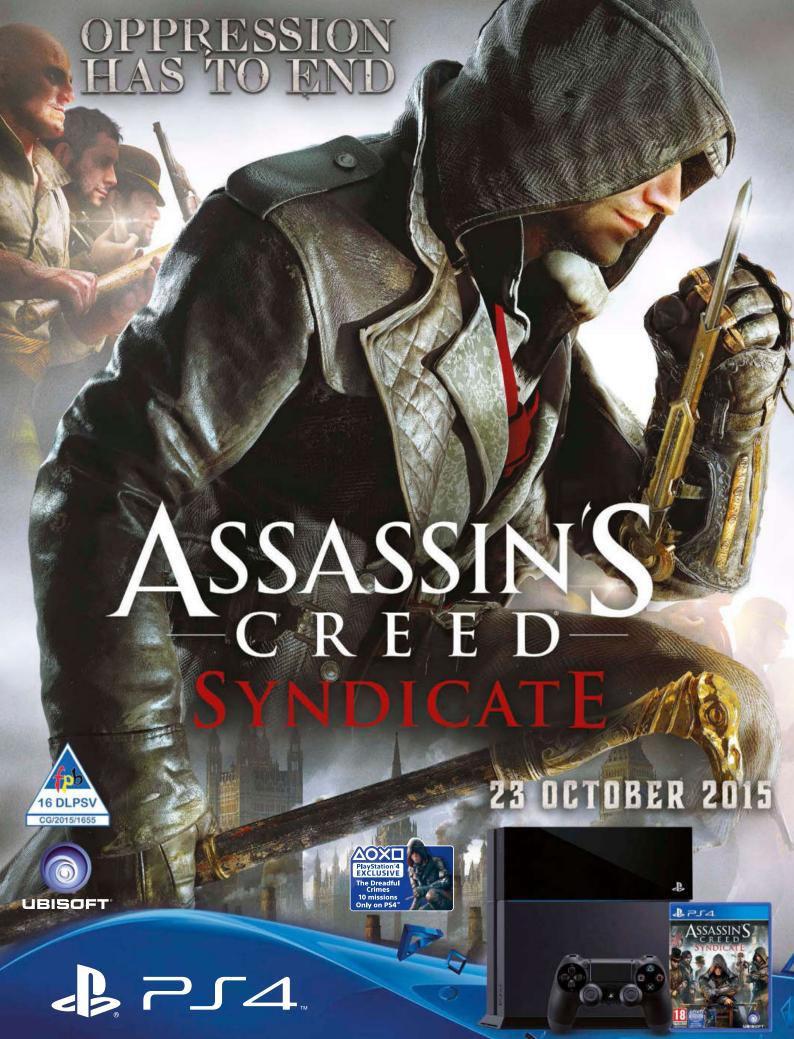
R6 000 / orange.com/za



#### THE CLOUD

There are two ways to enjoy a thunderstorm in your lounge. You could take off the roof and wait for some inclement weather, or buy this Arduinocontrolled, motion-activated ministorm, which rumbles, flashes and plays music in your lounge or bedroom, without voiding your insurance. from R8 000 / richardclarkson. com

TABLET SINCE MOSES











#### **FOOTBALL** MANAGER

# CLASSIC

If you'd told us 10 years ago that one day we'd be able to carry around rectangles that let us play Football Manager anywhere, we'd have attempted to destroy it in the interests of saving humanity. Honestly, it's a wonder anybody gets any work done at all. footballmanager. com



#### STAR WARS BATTLE-**FRONT**

A distinctly promising new Star Wars movie looks ready to finally banish the painful memory of Jar Jar Binks, and with the imminent arrival of Battlefront, there's never been a better time to put 'Jedi' on your census form. But, one question: Will it let you play as Admiral Ackbar? starwars.eu.com



#### FIFA 16

Without a copy of FIFA and a PS4, lunchtimes at Stuff HQ would be tedious, lifeless affairs. Instead we experience the highs and lows only football can bring, thanks to a highly organised league (complete with a seeding system based on FIFA world rankings). Step aside, Blatter – we've got this covered. easports.com



#### **ROCKET LEAGUE**

As competitive as the Super Mario Kart World Championships and more addictive than biltongflavoured bubblewrap, this football-in-cars funfest has been the surprise hit of 2015, eating up way too much of Stuff's time. So forgive us the odd typo this month, eh? rocketleague. psyonix.com



# **HER STORY**

Fans of monochrome Danish crime dramas will love Her Story, an interactive game featuring murder, sex and a search engine. To complete it you must uncover archived interview clips of suspect Hannah Smith. The order you watch them in will affect your entire view on this sordid tale. herstorygame. com

# STUFF TO PLAY



#### **WARHAMMER QUEST**

Gone are the Saturdays when you could go to a gaming shop and spend an hour choosing a new 12-sided die. Your Ork & Eldar Paint Set is in storage somewhere. But it's not all bad you can still beat up a Snotling or stab a Skaven in the dungeons of this fiendishly addictive point-'n'-wizard. rodeogames. co.uk



#### **DOOM**

The godfather of all first-person shooters will make you a next-gen offer you can't refuse when it returns next year. The kids might be more interested in vet another Gunman 2000 game, but gamers of a certain age know that Doom deserves some space on your fragging schedule. doom.com





#### **FALLOUT 4**

In Fallout 4 you emerge from a nuclear bunker after 200 years to find a postapocalyptic wasteland where Boston used to be - and something not entirely dissimilar is likely to happen to you once you get engrossed in Bethesda's latest action RPG. No problem, just don't forget to eat every now and then. fallout4.com



2001 APPLE iPOD

Workers have removed stones from 21.5 million square metres of South African desert, *by hand*, for the Bloodhound's record-breaking run.

**FAST & FURIOUS** 



# BLOODHOUND SSC

With 25,000 more horsepower than the QE2 but the carbon footprint of just 4.1 lactating cows, you might expect the Bloodhound to look more like a barn on wheels, with an exhaust that looks like a set of udders; but if all goes to plan this British-made rocket car will be the first to break 1610km/h. It'll take 55 seconds to hit that speed, just enough time for driver Andy Green to think about what he's got himself into. Don't expect to fit much in the boot - that's where the 3000°C engine goes. bloodhoundssc.com





#### ONEPLUS 2

It's hard to discuss the OnePlus 2 without going straight to its crazy price. For R5000 you get specs that knock an iPhone 6S into a cocked hat, then find a fetching outfit to go with that hat and wear it while joining Samsung's similarly-specced Galaxy S6 at the Super Specs Party. If you can find one, buy it. R5100 (import) / oneplus.net



#### BEN AINSLIE'S 'BATMAN' BOAT

Land Rover BAR is the Team Sky of sailing. The crew's grand plan to become the first Brit winners of the America's Cup in 2017 rests on its secret 'T2' superboat, heavily based on this prototype. It can reach 60mph thanks to its enormous, 23m-high articulating wing sail.



#### 4G

When you want images macros and amusing cats, you want them right now. Buffering is for people who've never seen what a real internet connection is capable of.

#### SOLID STATE DRIVES

SSDs are to your old hard drive what the Walkman was to vinyl. Maybe in the future, people will pay more for old, slow HDDs because the data seems 'warmer'.

#### KAWASAKI H2R

All motorbikes are fast, a result of them having fewer wheels and cupholders than cars. So one with a supercharger was only ever going to do 355km/h+





# STUFF THAT'S FREE

#### **EMOJI**

Ghost. Banana. Fire. Penguin. Saxophone. In 2015, you need never write these words again. What next? Xenomorph. Haggis. Despair.

#### **STRAVA**

There are two types of cyclist and runner: those who use Strava, and those who don't think this whole app thing is ever going to take off.

#### WINDOWS 10

Yes, it's 2015's Most Prosaic Download, but Microsoft's return to the Start Menu is possibly the most graceful U-turn in tech.

#### SCI-BONO

The Sci-Bono Centre always has something going. In October it was space, with free workshops going, and in December, some myth-busting.

#### **UBER**

The only thing free about this is the app download. And your peace of mind, knowing you're not going to be weaving home drunk behind the wheel.





#### CROWD-FUNDING

Kickstarter et al have gone and made everyone a potential tech billionaire. You no longer need an in with a Silicon Valley investor to get your amazing ideas off the ground - all you need is an Indiegogo page. Without crowdfunding, there'd be no Pebble watches, Ubuntu Edge phones or Ouya consoles.



#### **TINDER**

Love may be a losing game, but luckily dating is now a really fun one. No more nervous introductions in bars or getting every girl in town to try on a shoe you found: Tinder makes searching for The One as easy and addictive as simply swiping to the left or right. Ahhh, the romance. Free / iOS, Android



#### **SERIAL**

Part murder mystery, part all-encompassing phenomenon: no other podcast is responsible for so many amateur detectives. The question of whether Adnan Syed killed his girlfriend 15 years ago had 75 million people hooked as This American Life journalist Sarah Koenig told the story. It's back this year. serialpodcast.org



#### **INSTAGRAM**

There's more to this photo-packed app than pictures of cheese on toast hangover cures and Kim K's rear end. Broaden your horizons with the likes of the @nasagoddard account, for example, and you've got incredible pictures of the wonders of the universe right at your fingertips.

Free / iOS, Android



#### **AIRBNB**

Time to dump the snorers in 12-bed hostels, buffet hotel breakfasts and beige B&Bs: Airbnb has made travelling far more interesting. With local hosts offering up their flats, treehouses and igloos, you can find cheap, authentic and bragworthy places to stay all over the world. Plus you don't need to bring your own teabags. airbnb.com



#### **IFTTT**

Become the Reuben Riffel of the internet with IFTTT, letting you devise internet recipes with some pleasing results. Program your Twitter to work while you don't, shuffle your emails, automatically save pictures of that person you're stalking on Facebook, that sort of thing. Don't wait, automate. ifttt.com









#### TWEETBOT

There are few things that suck more than Twitter during an event you hate. Or love, but can't watch live. There's a way out of spoilertown, if you're on iOS. Tweetbot's iOS app lets you mute hashtags. so you can filter down the noise until you can catch that one Walking Dead episode. Or Boks game on the PVR. **R85 / iOS** 



#### MOMAX IPOWER XTRA

You don't always function in the morning until you've poured something brightly coloured and bordering on radioactive down your neck, and neither does your phone. This portable charger has enough juice inside for nearly five iPhone charges - it even comes in a can. R740 / momax.net



# KINDLE PAPERWHITE

Until now, printed books have been higher-resolution than e-readers. but Paperwhite crosses that threshold and joins proper books in 300dpi territory. It's still not as good as real books for hitting a wasp, but it's better for hiding the fact that you're reading steamy werewolf fiction. R2400 / takealot.co.za



#### AMAZON PRIME

Ordering an industrial-sized tub of peanut butter with free next day delivery is clearly amazing.

#### THE 'UNDO SEND' FEATURE IN GMAIL

For when you've emailed your unmentionables to your boss.

#### SKYPE

Video call anywhere in the world for free? Skype had an idea so good that we now use it as a vert

#### SAGE SMART TOASTER •

The toaster market was ripe for disruption, so Heston Blumentha added a 'bit more' button to his.

# PAYING FOR THINGS BY TAPPING YOUR PHONE

You used to faff around with PIN like some medieval serf. Phew.

#### PI F

Install it on anything you want to stream media to... that's it. The only humming will be from you.

# STUFF THAT MAKES LIFE EASIER



#### GOOGLE MAPS

How anyone got anywhere before it is a mystery. Turn-by-turn navigation has changed the commuting game and, thanks to Street View, we can spy on where we're going before we get there. The only problem is that live traffic updates have destroyed our number one excuse for being late for work.



# PHILIPS HUE LIGHTBULB

The first really nice smart lighting system is still the best by far... and with new entry-level white lights and wall switches, Apple HomeKit support and even TV shows, movies and games that interact with your lights, it's hard to see Hue being beaten any time soon. from R3 200 / orange.com/za



#### **GOOGLE ONHUB**

Wi-Fi routers are boring, but
Google's OnHub is the least boring
of the lot. It lets you prioritise
particular devices to get bigger
chunks of the bandwidth pie so
your Netflix binge doesn't stutter to
a stop — and it doesn't expect you
to think in binary code. Bet you still
fix it by turning it off and on again.
R5 500 / google.com



#### NEST THERMOSTAT

The traditional thermostat is an unfathomable piece of tech. Stop fruitlessly jabbing at it and get Nest, which lets you control the temperature of your house through an app on your phone. Over time, the smart system will learn your heating ways, saving you energy and precious cents. R3 800 (import) / nest.com



#### SMARTER WI-FI COFFEE MACHINE

Most mornings you can get your gentleman butler to brew you up a Monsooned Malabar, but you gave Aloysius the week off. Luckily, this machine is just as good at making coffee to your exact taste, equally adept at knowing when you're awake, and almost as attractive. R3 800 / firebox.com



#### **SHOWMAX**

Okay, it's not Netflix but DStv's own video-ondemand service ShowMax, a watch-all-you can buffet for R100pm, is a legal way to get on the streaming bandwagon. And local talent gets a look as well as overseas. It's early days still but with over 10 000 hours of video, we're sated for now. R100pm / showmax.com



#### **FLYABILITY GIMBALL**

Proof that drones aren't just for scaring away pigeons and buzzing the tower (or next door's treehouse, as it's better known), the winner of this year's Drones For Good competition was a 'copter that flies inside a protective cage, designed to help find survivors in hazardous environments.



#### **SPACE X**

To be completely honest, we've put SpaceX on this list because, if (or should that be when?) we decide to launch Stuff's Mars Edition, it's Elon Musk's private Whaddaya say, Elon? Deal?







THE MARTIAN

#### **SPACE LETTUCE**

Lettuce doesn't have much street cred these days... except the red romaine lettuce that was the first thing to be germinated. grown and then eaten on the International Space Station, that is. Cultivated without proper soil or sunlight, it showed the potential to grow food in harsh, arid areas back on Earth.



#### LILY

We are not pro camera operators. We do the awesome action and we expect someone else to do the filming, and so we applaud the emerging age of the follow-me drone. There are several - AirDog was the pioneer – but we like Lily's ability to take off from water. And her sweet little face. R10 000 / lily.camera



#### NO MAN'S SKY

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2016's most exciting game isn't a bro-tastic first-person shooter or yet another sequel; it's an ambitious universe simulator from a tiny studio in sleepy Guildford, England. Mine for minerals to upgrade your kit, rob cargo ships, or take on pirates in a world bigger than any game ever made. R900/ no-mans-sky.com





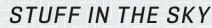
THE PHILAE LANDER

AOUILA

This solar-powered drone will

TERRAFUGIA TF-X

THE CLOUD





RIMOWA F13

Back in 1933, Junkers made the world's first commercial airliner, the F13. Over 80 years later we have 40 million flights a day and Kulula, so Rimowa's plans to build a fleet of replica F13s to take to the skies for test flights in 2016 is most welcome. Bet they won't overcharge you for a sweaty toasted cheese on board either.



TENTSILE TRILOGY

A cross between a hammock and a treehouse. the Trilogy is a tent that can be suspended between trees, with enough space inside to sleep six people. It might be a pain when you need to answer a call of nature, but it keeps you off the ground and out of the reach of angry warthogs. R17 200 / tentsile.com



DARK SKY

Talking about the weather is typically the preserve of your parents and Test cricket commentators. Download Dark Sky and you too will revel in this illustrious company. With notifications for showers and a wealth of neatly visualised data to dig into, you'll bore on about rainstorms before you know it. **R65 / iOS**





DJI PHANTOM 3

In the next few decades, tests willing, we'll all have flying cars. Until then, we'll have to make do with DJI's Phantom 3 for our aerial kicks. No, it may not be able to carry your shopping, but the Standard model (pictured) is simple to fly and affordable, while the Professional version can

shoot pixel-packed 4K video — and your flying Ford won't be able to do that. Okay, it probably will. But it doesn't exist yet. This is the connoisseur's drone, excelling at dronetography, easy to control and the life of with techy flying aids. If only it had seats. R16 000 / droneworld.co.za



STUFF TO VISIT



CRADLE OF HUMANKIND discovered. Go on a Sunday to play spot-the-biker.

REDDIT.COM/R/ WRITINGPROMPTS/

AFRICA CYCLE FAIR

is home to headlines like 'You'll



GEOMATICS INDABA

Drone nuts have their own event, thanks to the SA Geomatics Institute. The airshow is one of the most technical you will encounter, where all things drone, UAV and geological are discussed. Yes, there are drones in the sky and in simulators, so you don't break anything too costly. Unless you own it.



DISMALAND

In the bustling artistic hub of Weston-super-Mare, elusive street artist Banksy has created his own twisted take on Disneyland. Dismaland is a pop-up exhibition or 'bemusement park' featuring works by artists such as Damien Hirst and live music from Massive Attack, among others. R110 / dismaland.co.uk



VALLEY OF THE WAVES

It's an oldie but a goodie. Too many South Africans forget that Sun City actually exists and isn't a Leon Schuster movie set by any means. Hit up the Valley in summer so you can jump and 'Ah!' with the tourists. Or you can brave the slide that does its level best to wedge your cozzie up your... rear bathing suit region.

JIBO

This 'family robot' is a bit like a supercharged Siri or Cortana that tilts, rotates, takes photos and issues reminders and updates. He won't cook, mind.

GRAPHENE

Graphene is a form of carbon 207 times stronger than steel and a nearperfect electrical conductor. Is the graphene age upon us?

HYPERLOOP

Elon Musk wants to put you in a tube and accelerate you to 1225 km/h. We told you not to mess with Elon, but would you listen?

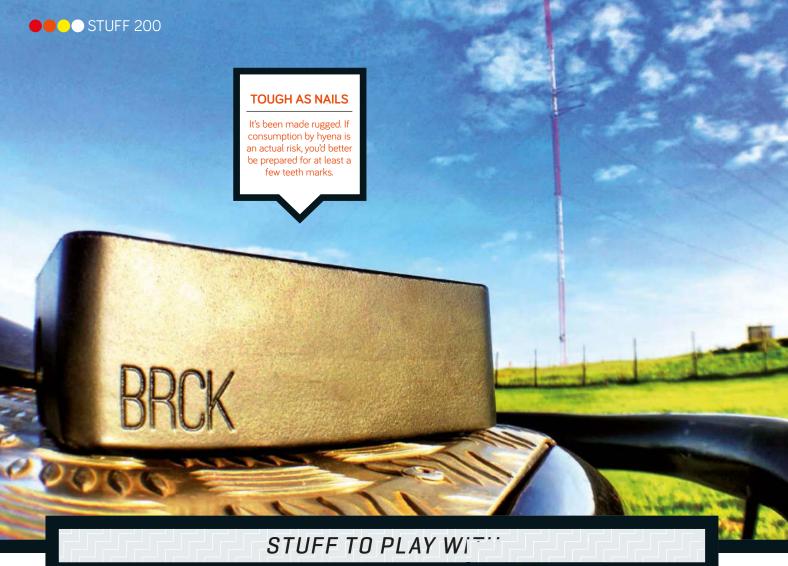
TESLA POWERWALL

Musk is a busy chap. He's also building a rechargable lithium ion battery to take your home off the grid. Hmmm...

PS NOW

PS Now lets you rent and stream PlayStation games directly to a console, TV or Blu-ray player. This is surely a little taste of the future of gaming.





BRCK

A uniquely African invention, we played with one of the first iterations of the BRCK some time back, while it was a prototype. A trip to Kickstarter and it's on the market for the world to use. What is it? Silly us. It's the internet in a box, designed to work where there are no wires, electricity or other people in extremely extreme cases. The BRCK is able to act as a modem, router, and hotspot even when there's no power at all, thanks to a massive battery and that's just the start for this internet backup system. It has been designed for use in Africa, away from power lines which means that it works everywhere else with ease.

R3500 / brck.com



HACKABALL

The successor to 'funducational' toys like the Rubik's Cube, this smartball can be programmed by its accompanying iOS app to create new games. With sensors that can tell when the ball's been thrown, shaken or dropped, plus a variety of colour and light patterns, it's not one the kids (or the cat) will tire of quickly. R1600 / hackaball.com



NINTENDO NX

We really hope this will be amazing, but right now we know very little about Nintendo's forthcoming NX console. It won't run on Android, it will probably feature a new open-world Zelda and Pikmin 4, and it's set to be unveiled next year. One thing about the Wii U's successor is most certain: Ninty needs it to be a hit.



BEYOND123 HELICONE

Based on mathematical concepts like Fibonacci numbers that we vaguely remember learning about in school, this addictive piece of 'playable art' turns from a helix into a pine cone with a flick of your wrist. If you need an emergency icebreaker for when the in-laws come over, this could just be it.

R1 480 / amazon.com



HAWK-EYE & GOAL-LINE TECHNOLOGY

Aside from the Pope and Matt Le Tissier, pretty much all human beings are fallible. While mishaps like Stevie G's title-losing slip will always remain hilarious, ghost goals, matchpoints and wickets are less so. Thanks to Hawk-Eye and other such tech, these refereeing errors just don't happen any more.

MASON RESOLUTION

The bike industry is as busy as a bucket of bees, especially in Britain where Olympic and Tour de France success have created a whole generation of obesity-shedding cyclists. This UK-designed, Italian-crafted bike is made of steel but its ride, geometry and disc brakes are bang up to date. from R55000 / masoncycles.cc





STUFF WE CAN'T AFFORD

2006 PS3

when consoles went from being games machines to full home entertainment hubs.

2007 <u>A</u>PPLE iPHONE

We're gonna go out on a limb here and say these things could catch on.



2008 T-MOBILE G1

The first Android phone had a full QWERTY keyboard. Now Android powers 80% of all phones.

2008 SPOTIFY

Really? Nearly all the music ever, available to anyone, whenever? See you later, record industry!



2009 PANASONIC G1

A DSLR in a compact body? Photography would never be quite the same again...

2010 APPLE iPAD

People used to laugh at the name and make *Trigger Happy* TV Jokes... but who's had the last laugh, eh?



2013 GOOGLE GLASS

A smart move by Google, to persuade us it didn't have a clue

2014 OCULUS RIFT

The new consume version is amazing Prepare for a



BMW i8

With its Batmobile-from-thefuture looks, the i8 has coaxed petrolheads into changing their minds about being so awfully beastly to the environment.

• OPPO PM-

Oppo normally makes phones and Blu-ray players; but anything Dr Dre can do, it can do better. Really quite a lot better. The night bus has never sounded so good.



LEICA Q

Compared to the R121000 Leica M. the full-frame Q seems positively affordable... but then, affordable doesn't mean the same to Leica as it doesn't to everybody else. This is a compact camera that costs nearly R64000. Look at the pictures, though, and you'll see exactly where that money went. R61150 / leica-



CLEARAUDIO OVATION

With carefully balanced weights and painstakingly positioned belts, high-end turntables often look more like lab experiments than music machines. By contrast, Clearaudio's Ovation looks surprisingly sensible. Don't let those looks fool you, though: it's crazy for your vinyl collection. R126 000 / clearaudio.de



FORD GT

We waited 10 years for a seguel to the original Ford GT, but it's been worth it. The new GT is a roaring great wedge of speed, muscle and racing stripes. You can't afford one, but if you're an Xbox gamer you'll actually be able to drive the Mk II before it even comes out, in Forza Motorsport 6. Rtba / ford.co.za

camera.com





CATALYST APPLE WATCH CASE

Your Apple Watch might let you send your heartbeat to someone. but if a jealous Android Wear fan pushes you in a pool it's game over. This waterproof suit of armour gives it Jason Statham toughness - and nobody would dare push him in a pool. R840 / catalyst

lifestyle.com

LIFELINE

CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?

The only game for the Apple Watch worth playing, Lifeline tasks you with trying to save a stranded astronaut, one message at a time. It works in real time, so if Tyler has to trek across a crater, you'll have to wait for him before you can carry on. And what comes to those who wait? Very good things. R20 / iOS



APPLE WATCH

It's by no means essential, but every time we get a calendar notification or an email or catch a plane or start Strava without having to use our phones, it proves itself that little bit more useful. It has some stiff competition, but this is still the best-looking smart watch you can buy. R8 500 / takealot.co.za



HTC VIVE

After decades of Console War, virtual reality is the next great battleground and Oculus Rift and PlayStation VR are major players. But with motion sensors that let you walk around inside games, the Valve-engineered Vive is the virtual reality headset that's top of our most wanted list. Especially if it comes with a copy of Portal 3. Rtba / htcvr.com

STUFF TO SAVE THE WORLD

CITIZENFOUR

An Oscar-winning doc about Edward Snowden's spying revelations – this is what the term 'eye-opener' really means.

HARLEY-**DAVIDSON** LIVEWIRE

The future of electric motorbikes: it's going to be hair-raising.

VW XL1

Billed as the most aerodynamic car in the world, it's the vehicle most likely to influence what we drive in the future.

DARPA **ROBOTICS** CHALLENGE

This talent show for 'bots featured some truly stunning works in progress.

TESLA MODEL S

The sexy Model S has wrestled the reputation of electric vehicles away from the G-Wiz and the milk float.

BILL GATES

From the head of Microsoft to multi-billionaire philanthropist, Bill Gates is spending a literal fortune saving the world.



STUFF TO WEAR



MICROSOFT HOLOLENS

SENA 10C

LYLE & SCOTT CONTACTLESS JACKET

IGROW LASER HELMET

a day, every other day? Why, to



GARMIN FENIX 3

You wouldn't normally go to your local bar wearing your triathlon kit (most have an unwritten 'no wetsuits' rule anyway), but the Fenix 3 is a fitness watch you can easily wear every day. Plus it means you'll be ready if you end up in an impromptu post-beer 10k. R8 500 / fenix3. garmin.co.za



AMPSTRIP

Take wearable tech to its logical conclusion and you get the Ampstrip – a heart-rate sensor that literally sticks to your body. It's light, with a seven-day battery life, plus it's waterproof so you can wear it 24/7 and not worry about it malfunctioning in your postworkout shower. R2 100 / ampstrip.com



GOPRO HERO4 **SESSION**

GoPro's mini Session is a marvel of so-tiny-itlooks-likeyou-couldswallow-it-andfilm-your-owninternal-organs engineering. It's the lightest and smallest camera GoPro have ever made - in fact, you'll probably forget you're wearing it. R6 500 / actiongear.co.za

> SLEEKER THAN A ORMULA



STUFF TO WATCH



STEVE JOBS

He may have been the tech messiah, but Steve Jobs is generally agreed to have been quite tricky to live with. Who better, then, than Aaron Sorkin to write his biopic? Fast-talking, sharp-edged and Fassbenderstarring, this thriller is going to blow 2013's Ashton Kutcher vehicle away. Out 13 Nov / steve

jobsthefilm.com





ONTAPTV

We went from nothing to a selection, with new streaming service ONTAPtv. com giving us yet another paid, stream-todevice option to to explore. It's still no Netflix but it's the most cost effective choice in SA at its lower tiers. Plus, you can pick and choose your content channels so you pay for what you want. Nothing more.



THIS VIDEO OF ROBOTS FALLING OVER

Worried about robots taking over? Allay your fears by watching some of the world's most advanced 'bots taking a tumble while trying to do things as simple as just standing up. If it proves anything, it goes to show slapstick will live on, even if the human race doesn't. bit.ly/clumsybots



LIMMY'S **VINE FEED**

Much of Vine is taken up by American teenagers making the same bad jokes over and over again, but Limmy's nightmarish characters, bizarre catchphrases and recurring sketches turn the six-second clips into an outlet for some of his most LOLworthy creations. vine.co/limmy



NETFLIX

Netflix isn't official here but you can have it if you really want it and setup beats the SABC's selection any day. Nexflix is the king, with a simple menu and a decent library of boxsets and recent-ish films. But its real triumph is the shows made in house, like Bojack Horseman, which you won't find anywhere else. netflix.





VIDI

Thought to be the streaming saviour SA was looking for at launch, Vidi is now competing with a lot more options than it originally was supposed to. Still, what this local service offers is all high quality, even if its selection could stand to be bolstered some. The competition is good for all us viewers. vidi.co.za



LAST WEEK TONIGHT

Not long ago Russell Brand was the only Brit Americans paid any attention to. but fortunately they now listen to John Oliver too. His satirical oneman show can be a touch formulaic at times, and some of the more US-specific references don't land for us Saffers, but when it zings, it zings like a KFC burger. hbo.com



TRIGGERFISH

It's about time we got some recognition for our hard word and by 'our' we mean Triggerfish Animation Studios, the Cape Townbased team behind the international hit Khumba. Look out for sea monsters, seals and sharks in future from our home-grown Pixar. More doff springboks will also be welcome. triggerfish.co.za

DAREDEVIL

Yes, we know he's a lawyer — but this gritty and dark TV show from the Marvel universe is a shining light in the Netflix library. The whole thing is worth watching just to see the 'man without fear' take on henchmen in the now famous hallway scene.

marvel.com/tv/





THIS VIDEO OF AN EAGLE ATTACKING A DRONE

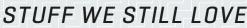
If the Civil Aviation Authority really wants to stop drones flying close to airports, perhaps they should employ this eagle as a security guard. The drone's props are no match for the bird's talons as it crashes to the ground in a sorry heap. Nature 1, technology 0. bit.ly/eagledrone



SUPERSPORT

Looks, you've got two choices here. You can pay for DStv to watch Supersport, either on your TV or on the mobile app (which we tested with the Soccer World Cup a while back), or you can watch SABC's sports coverage. Or you can switch to ESPN like some kind of American. What's it going to be - right sport or wrong sport? supersport.com







SONY PLAYSTATION 4



GOOGLE CHROMECAST

It's amazing that we're still using remote controls. What are we, savages? The Chromecast has a winning combo of tiny price and huge convenience, putting apps like Netflix, YouTube and iPlayer on any TV, controlled by your phone. You can even mirror your Android device on the big screen. R700 /



MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO₃

The closest anyone has ever come to making a device that can replace both your laptop and your tablet in one is Microsoft's stunning Surface Pro 3 - theWash 'n' Go of gadgetry. Just don't take it into the shower with you - one of the few things it isn't is waterproof. R2 000 / microsoft.com



SAGA

Most respected sages of nerddom who've read Saga will tell you it's the greatest comic in print at the moment. For very good reason: it's got the best bits of Game Of Thrones and Star Wars, intergalactic xenophobia and a very cute horned baby. There are five volumes, so get reading. R170 /

imagecomics.com

STUFF WE WISH WE'D THOUGHT OF

USB PLUG SOCKETS

It should really be mandatory in every home and office across the land: the wall socket with built-in USB slots. It must happen.

SANDISK DUAL **USB DRIVE TYPE-C**

This 32GB USB stick has standard and micro USB prongs, to work with both your laptop and your (non-Apple) phone or tablet.

THE PIANO-KEY **NECKTIE**

Because we feel like we've been taking crazy pills. What have you invented? Nothing! And nor have we, sadly. #whymalemodels

LG G FLEX 2

LG's bendy blower has a self-healing skin - the kind of innovation that we want to see more of, not just tech for tech's sake.

KANEX **GOBUDDY PLUS**

Who knew a Lightning cable in a bottle opener would be such a useful invention? Drink and charge at the same time perfect night in.



takealot.com



Keep your Volkswagen a Volkswagen, for less.



Engineered for Volkswagens 4 years and older.

We've introduced our competitively priced Economy Packages, specifically developed for models 4 years and older. Economy Parts, paired with our Volkswagen Dealership technical expertise, make Economy Packages the smart choice for guaranteed quality and service at an excellent price. The affordable way to keep your Volkswagen a Volkswagen.

*Offer applicable only to Golf 4, Golf 5, Golf 6, Jetta 4, Jetta 5 (excluding Rear Shock Absorbers), Polo 2003–2011 and Polo Classic 2003–2010 (excluding Front Brake Pads, Brake Discs and Rear Shock Absorbers). Offer subject to availability of parts. Part applicability to model dependent on chassis/VIN number. Prices reflected are recommended retail prices at participating dealers nationwide and include VAT, parts and labour. Offer valid from 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016. Terms and conditions apply.

















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audi.co.za



Sports **2015 AUDI R8 COUPE**

We get that the Audi R8 Coupe is a performance what can you expect, technology-wise, from a car that uses a body called an Audi Space Frame, features weight reduction, aerodynamics tech and aluminium high-torque long-stroke engines?

Er... everything, really. A 6.5in/16.5cm touchscreen navigation hub with enough support for DVD, SDHC, Bluetooth, Aux (if you're into that) that also provides driving info is just the start. Optional sound by Bang & Olufsen, two sorts of parking assist – depending on how much

money you're willing to part with – and every assist you never knew existed – including automatic braking on incline starts (read the manual) – are available in the R8 Coupe. That's not counting the engineered accident protection, airbag — heck — even a custom-designed luggage system designed to fit inside the R8 Coupe are yours for

the buying. Plus, it's fast, rocketing you to the ton in less than five seconds. And if the Coupe doesn't scratch that sportscar itch properly you can always cast your eyes in the direction of the R8 Spyder or the R8 V10 Plus Coupe... because there's no kill quite like overkill.



Techspecs

Engine: 4.2I V8 direct fuel injection

Gearbox: 6-speed manual/7-speed S tronic
Power: 316kW @7900rpm Torque: 430Nm @4500-6000rpm
Top Speed: 302km/h Accleration: 0-100km/h - 4.6s
Fuel Capacity: 75 litre



PORSCHE 911 TURBO

Look familiar? It's a Porsche, okay? Add cruise control, a TV tuner, voice control, sports packages and more but be prepared to pay for them.

From R2.5 million / porsche.com



2014 JAGUAR F-TYPE CONVERTIBLE

Climate control, custom interior lighting, 8in/23cm navigation/ infotainment system and blindspot closing sensing. And it's a Jag, come on. From R935 000 / jaguar.com

Passenger

2014 MAZDA3



M azda really should be on your radar already, but in case it wasn't, BAM, now it is. The 2014 Mazda3 is a stylish yet (relatively) cheap hatchback that combines sweeping lines with Mazda's SKYACTIV engine tech. You care about that last point because it means consumption of 6.11/100km. Mazda's design chops are on show, making the 3 look like you paid more for it than you actually did (always a positive thing) but it's what's on the inside that really counts. In this case, it's Mazda's MZD

which lives in a centre dash-mounted 7in/17.8cm LCD touchscreen. Your more

accessing a smartphone music library over Bluetooth – are covered, but the Mazda3 also makes use of your data connection to furnish passengers (or extremely suicidal drivers) with social media access. If it's fewer fingerprints on your screen you're after, the MZD Connect system is also controlled by a multimedia 'commander' knob between the front seats. Then there's the Active

Driving Display, a pop-up readout above the speedo which gives you pertinent information without making you glance down. Short of your car watching the road for you, this is one way to turn driving into a much safer activity.



2015 KIA CERATO 5

Basic options for a basic car - except that now 'basic' means GPS, Bluetooth, and DVD support with an in–console display. Basically a car on steroids. From R268 000 / kia.com



2015 HYUNDAI i20 (NEW-GEN)

Oddly, not a whole lot of emphasis inside the cabin but drivers have rear parking sensors and an optional camera to look forward to. Also: quiet. From R193 000 / hyundai.co.za



Tech specs

Engine: 2.0I 4-cylinder 16v DOHC S-VT SKYACTIV-G Gearbox: 6-speed manual/auto Power: 121kW @6000rpm Torque: 210Nm @4000rpm Top Speed: 210km/h Acceleration: 0-100 km/h - 7.3 s Fuel capacity: 51 litre





2015 BMW X6 M SPORT ACTIVITY

t's a sad fact that many BMW X6 M SUVs will never know what a dirt road feels like, though it's more depressing for the dirt road itself, which will never feel the momentarybut-powerful caress of the X6 M's wheels. It's extremely hard indeed for a driver (or prospective passenger) to

be sad when in close proximity to BMW's SUV king. Why? Because it accelerates to 100km/h as quickly as Audi's R8 Coupe, which is not bad for a three–ton vehicle. The X6 M comes with all the torque you'd expect of an M-branded vehicle and enough power to lift even Jeremy Clarkson's

eyebrows – so there's your reason right there.

Luxury, speed and power in a very chunky package is all good and well, but where can we connect the iPad? In the USB port, of course, and you'll be able to take control of audio apps with the steering wheel controls. Navigation, DVDs and even an optional TV tuner can be used or watched from the centre console's 8.8in/22.3cm touchscreen display. Bluetooth connectivity is, as you'd expect, standard, too. BMW's ConnectedDrive tech, which we've already gushed over at length since its inception, is in place, as is BMW's driver-side HUD tech and there's the Laptimer app...



Tech specs

Engine: 4.4I V8 M TwinPower Turbo

Gearbox: 6–speed M Sport automatic

Power: 423kW @6000–6500rpm Torque: 750Nm @2200–5000rpm

Top Speed: 250km/h Accleration: 0–100km/h – 4.2s

Fuel Capacity: 85 litre



VW TOUAREG

The base V6 comes with parking assist, the big V8 goes as far as keyless entry with sensors everywhere. Plus, 4x4. From R724 000 / vw.co.za



2015 NISSAN JUKE

How cute, it's a mini-SUV. The Juke packs a 1.2l turbo engine, Nissan Connect and parking assists – if you plump for the costlier model. From R260 000 / nissan.co.za

Luxury

2015 MERCEDES S 65 AMG COUPE



with the largest engine of our four-wheeled quartet the 2015 Mercedes S 65 AMG Coupe also features the greatest fuel consumption and, not surprisingly, the biggest price tag. That V12 biturbo Mercedes powerplant is also responsible for shifting this 2.5 ton slice of German engineering to 100km/h faster than everything else here. It's more nimble than you'd think, too.

As you might expect from a car with a house-like price tag, it has more tech than our review product room. There's a takes the place of the instrument cluster — and there's a second display in the centre – for navigation and the other boring, but necessary,

stuff. The cabin is capable of massaging the driver and passenger, the car monitors the road ahead to pre-load the suspension (Magic Body Control), it can more or less drive itself, staying between the lines with Merc's Steering Assist. Want to see pedestrians in complete darkness? Yeah, the S 65 AMG comes with night vision for that, too.

Parking assist, air purification, its own fragrancedispensing system, heated seats, armrests and even an optional fridge -- we don't actually have enough space to outline all of the available options for the S 65 AMG.
Suffice to say we'll never be able to afford one, but we want one really, really badly.



2015 ASTON MARTIN RAPIDE S

Want to swank around like James Bond? It's costly when MI5 isn't picking up the bill but the Rapide S lands with everything. Ejector seats not included. From R3.2 million / astonmartindealers.com



MASERATI QUATTROPORTE GTS

The very definition of custom, with limited runs and build selections for everything (interior and exterior), plus an 8.4in/21.4cm touchscreen infotainment centre. From 2.5 million / maserati.co.za



Techspecs

Engine: 6.0I V12 biturbo

Gearbox: AMG SPEEDSHIFT MCT 7-speed sport

Power: 463kW @4800rpm **Torque:** 1000Nm @2300-4300rpm **Top Speed:** 250-300km/h **Accleration:** 0-100km/h - 4.1s

Fuel Capacity: 80 litre



App:roved



Onefootball

The season's in full swing, but you can't always be there for your team, or revel in the misfortune of your rivals. On such occasions, Onefootball's worth having installed. The app enables you to follow leagues worldwide and get news on your favourite clubs. The best bit, though, is the live scores. These are especially great when using the Apple Watch extension, a light tap on your wrist alerting you to a goal — well, great if your team's not getting a kicking.

Stuff says ★★★☆ Free / Android, iOS,



Horizon Chase

A love letter to old-school arcade racers, Horizon Chase funnels the best bits of Lotus (Amiga) and Top Gear (SNES) into a thoroughly modern touchscreen adrenaline rush. It's fast and vibrant, as you repeatedly battle from the back of the pack to win races and earn the points required to unlock new locations. Assuming you're not dead inside, you'll be glued to your iPhone, revelling in the richness of the game, and wondering why this kind of racer isn't more commonplace.

Stuff says ★★★☆ R4 / iOS



Piloteer

Not the best game to install if you're easily annoyed, *Piloteer* finds Jane attempting to fly about on a jetpack that appears to have all the grace and usability of a ZX80. But persevere and you'll gain a modicum of control to complete challenges, only ending up in a bone-crunching heap every nine tries out of ten. Lovely Gilliam-esque graphics and amusingly rag-doll physics should just about stop you hurling your device at a wall after yet another crash

Stuff says ★★★☆ R13 / Android; R40 / iOS



Status Board

If your iPad spends much of its life on your desk, a blank screen staring into space, check out Status Board. The app lets you create custom status displays from a range of widgets, bringing meaning to your otherwise dormant tablet. Individuals can add clocks, photos, calendars, and feeds for email, news and Twitter. Business types can include all manner of graphs, countdown timers and tables, and even output the lot to an HD telly via the magic of HDMI

Stuff says ★★★☆ Free + R140 expansion / iPag











Drop Wizard

Harking back to classic singlescreen Taito platformers such as Bubble Bobble, Drop Wizard is also part auto-runner. You sprint left and right, blasting magic when you land, and punt dazed monsters about the place on colliding with them. It's adorable, but there's a sting in its tail with the vicious boss battles.

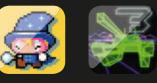


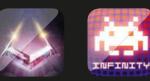
Geometry Wars 3: Dimensions Evolved

Few twin–stick shooters evoke the same sense of danger, panic, claustrophobia and excitement as 1982's masterful *Robotron. Geometry Wars 3* does. This is a gorgeous, intense, thrilling shooter, which tests your thumbs to the limits across a range of tiny 3D worlds full of vibrant nasties to destroy.

Stuff says ★★★★ R70 / Android, iOS

Mini meme







ROLLICKING RETRO REMAKES

Pac-Man has been reworked for a new generation, but it isn't the only superb mobile game infused with the pixel-rich lifeblood of arcade classics



Pac–Man 256

Crossy Road's devs successfully rethought Frogger and now they bring their smarts to the dot-munching maze-wanderer. He finds himself beyond the glitch in the infamous 255th level, simultaneously outrunning digital oblivion and his ghostly foes. This time at least, he has power-ups beyond pills, including a spectre-frying laser.

Stuff says ★★★☆
Free / Android, iOS



Panzerkampf 3

Battlezone in 1980 was one of the earliest first-person 3D shooters, finding you trundling about a sparse landscape, blowing away vector tanks. Panzerkampf 3 reboots the original, gives it Daytona-like arcade racer controls, ramps up the mayhem, speed and destruction, and then sits back, rightfully satisfied.

Stuff says ★★★☆ R20 / iOS



Space Invaders Infinity Gene

These days Space Invaders looks a bit rubbish, and Infinity Gene seemingly agrees, dispensing with the feel of the original. It quickly evolves, flinging staccato set-piece stages at you in a flurry of neon and thumping beats. Before long, you're careening through bullet hell, wondering how this got so tough.

Stuff says ★★★☆
R70 / Android, iOS



Forget-Me-Not

Borrowing from Pac-Man, Rogue and Wizard Of Wor, Forget-Me-Not plonks you in procedurally generated destructible arenas to eat flowers, grab a key and make your escape. But every level inevitably descends into a frenzied free-for-all warzone, with tiny pixelated characters blowing anything within range to smithereens.

Stuff says ★★★★ R35 / Android, iOS

Telkom

Say goodbye to those short winter days, and cold winter nights, summer is finally here and it's a summer like no other.

Endless chats with your friends on the beach, non-stop status updates with your loved ones, and boundless entertainment, from live streaming movies to jamming to your favourite downloaded tunes.

The sunshine seems to last forever, and so does your data and calls. Because this is a Summer Unlimited, and that means you have the freedom to do what you want, when you want, for as long as you want.

It's a summer of sharing laughter and tweets, a summer of being together even when you're apart, a summer of unlimited friendships, unlimited joy, unlimited smileys, unlimited everything.

Get it all with SA's most Unlimited Network.

It's a Summer Unlimited, Baby!





MINIOF

click



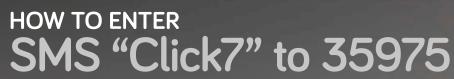




GB storage 7.0" 1024x600 TN LED Display







(SMSs costs R1.50) Free minutes do not apply. Errors billed.

Readers must include their names and surnames, contact number, email address and physical address. Valid from October 19th to November 20th. Terms and Conditions on the Editor's Letter (page 2).

20 NOV 2015

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2 close to the Edge?

R5 000 (import)





Rtba

The OnePlus 2 takes on the Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+, and it's a much closer battle than you might think

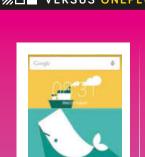
Have high-end smartphones lost the plot? Looking at the price of the Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge+, you could think so: the RRP of the top-end 64GB version may be over R17 000.

There's an antidote, though. It's the OnePlus 2,

a phone that has similar specs to flagship phones costing upwards of R10 000, but with a price that starts under R5 000.

We've been using both phones side by side, putting our plucky bargain blower against one of the most expensive phones on the high street. You might be surprised at how well the cheaper OnePlus 2 comes off in the comparison.

But what do you lose by paying half the price?



Felt and braces

The OnePlus 2 has a neat band of metal around the sides and a back of furry, feltlike plastic, which can be replaced with wood or even kevlar. It's thicker than the Samsung at 9.9mm, but as it's also less wide thanks to its smaller display, so it doesn't seem bulkier. A tough Gorilla Glass 4 screen and a good fingerprint scanner give it a feeling of real quality. 8/10

The colour of (a lot less) money

This phone has a great display, but it's not quite as good as the Samsung's. Rather than a Super AMOLED screen, it uses an IPS LCD of the sort found on iPhones and many others; it's 90% as good as the Samsung, but real screen snobs will be able to tell the difference at a glance. Resolution is also a lot lower than the mighty QHD display of the Edge+, although from a metre away you'd actually be hard pressed to notice. Outdoor visibility isn't quite as good, and it's a little smaller. Still, the OnePlus 2 has a great screen with a nice, natural-looking colour tone. 8/10



DESIGN

DISPLAY

Plus points

This is perhaps the most luxurious phone Samsung has ever made. The front has no seams, just a single luscious curve of Gorilla Glass 4. It's very slim at 6.9mm, albeit with a camera bump, and the fingerprint scanner is fast and accurate. Its nonexpandable storage may add to the expense, so choose carefully. 10/10



Screen of dreams

Samsung is the true master of screens, and this 5.7in/14.5cm, 2560x1440-pixel (QHD) display is about the best it has ever produced. The Super AMOLED tech gives it superb contrast, as each pixel lights itself. Colour is great and it's also adjustable, from the eye-meltingly saturated to natural and accurate. What we appreciate the most, though, is its amazing outdoor visibility. The main event is the curve, which looks great and can be genuinely useful – a flick on the side brings up a drawer of apps and contacts. It's neat, although nothing you can't mimic with a well-customised homescreen. 10/10



Power on a budget

Not only does the OnePlus 2 use a Snapdragon 810, Qualcomm's top-end mobile chip, it also boasts 4GB of RAM. In use the OnePlus feels just as lag-free as the Edge+. It gets warm more readily, but doesn't overheat. There's no microSD slot, so the 32GB model will run out of space for movies and music fairly guickly. The chunky 3300mAh battery is pretty large for a 1080p phone – play games, browse the web and get snap-happy with the camera and you'll have drained it by bedtime, but for normal use a solid day and a half between charges is realistic. 8/10



Here be lasers

The 13MP sensor may have a lower resolution than the Samsung's, but it does have optical image stabilisation and laser-assisted focusing, which judges how far away vour subject is. The biggest difference to image quality comes down to the HDR mode. Where the S6 Edge+ has excellent HDR that can be used to tweak photos, the OnePlus 2's mode is either on or off, and in tricky lighting it can blow up the colours to make the scene look unnatural. 8/10

Space to breathe

The OnePlus 2's custom interface, Oxvgen, is designed to look and feel just like the default version of Android. So what's different? It offers lots of tweaks and customisations under the surface. giving you the feel of a Nexus with the features of a phone made for power users. These include things like being able to fiddle with the position of the soft keys, altering how many apps are on the homescreen and the style of icons. The top calling card is simplicity. The fact that you get few preinstalled apps is a real boon for those who hate the idea of being cajoled into using certain apps by Samsung. 9/10

OS Android Lollipop with OxygenOS **Screen** 5.5in/14cm 1920x1080 (401ppi) **Processor** Snapdragon 810 RAM 4GB Storage 32/64GB Cameras 13MP, 5MP Battery 3300mAh **Dimensions** 152x75x9.9mm, 175g



STUFF SAYS **** For the money, you just can't quibble with the OnePlus 2 - it's a bona fide bargain

oping we'd tell you the OnePlus 2 does absolutely everything better than a R17 000+ Samsung? Sorry, we can't. However, look back and forth at your bank balance and those differences, and you can only conclude the OnePlus is a better buy.

It's not so flashy, with a more ordinary screen and a slower, less detailed camera. But at almost every turn it gives you 90% of the good stuff for less than 50% of the cost. We don't think Samsung's suddenly going to catch on and make a gangbuster Android bargain like the OnePlus 2, so maybe it's time to forget the big brands for once and side with the little guy.

There's one problem: you can't just walk into a shop and buy a OnePlus 2. You have to apply for an invite to buy one online. Still, those who make the effort will be rewarded.

PERFORMANCE

Power on tap

While both phones sit atop the Android league with octacore CPUs and 4GB RAM apiece, the Edge+ has a special Samsung-made brain that runs faster and cooler. As a result this phone is almost perfectly lag-free, and even the interface feels turbocharged. As with the OnePlus, you can have 32GB or 64GB of storage, and again we'd advise going the extra mile. The Edge+'s battery is smaller, but in use it actually lasts longer thanks to software optimisation: left playing a 720p video file, it lasts almost 16 hours. Better still, its super-fast charging will take it to 80% in around 30 minutes. 8/10

CAMERA

Speedy snaps As well as being the king of screens, Samsung has a pretty good claim to the phone camera crown. The rear camera has a larger 16MP sensor, and it's backed by optical image stabilisation for low light. But the main advantage it has is speed: it can take photos in quick succession. It's bags of fun to shoot with, and image quality is fantastic, with tons of detail. For more serious snappers, the Edge+ can even shoot Photoshopfriendly RAW images. 9/10



Touch of class

SOFTWARE

These days, the TouchWiz UI is tasteful, fast and easy to use – it doesn't bombard your eyeballs with too much data. Samsung seems to have finally learned what a classy UI is all about. You can give the software an instant overhaul with themes, giving your Edge+ a new visual personality. Some of them are pretty ropey, but we like Samsung Briefing, which gives you a stream of digital goodies. Not everyone is going to like all the extra apps, though, and you can only 'disable' rather than uninstall them. Still, while there are lots of extra features, it doesn't feel overburdened by them. 8/10

STUFF SAYS ****

The Edge+ may be expensive, but it's also one of the best phones you can buy



TECH SPECS

OS Android Lollipop with TouchWiz UI **Screen** 5.7in/14.5cm 2560x1440 518 ppi) **Processor** Exynos 7420 RAM 4GB Storage 32/64GB Cameras 16MP, 5MP Battery 3000mAh **Dimensions** 154x75x6.9mm, 153g





Rather than ballast tanks, the Dragon has six electric thrusters in order to descend to the 'edge of darkness'.

Why wait for space tourism when you can be an aquanaut today? Stuff takes a dive in the world's most advanced personal submarine

ringing up the subject of Bond villains at the launch of a personal submarine might sound clichéd. But in the case of DeepFlight's Dragon, it's justified. The California-based company is run by Graham Hawkes, who designed and piloted the Bond-bothering Mantis submarine in 1981's For Your Eyes Only. Some 34 years on, his firm is taking Stuff on one of the first Dragon 'flights' – with less nefarious ambitions but just as much stardust.

The DeepFlight Dragon isn't the first personal submarine, but it does uniquely promise to let you 'fly' with sea life with virtually no pilot training. Why not just go scuba diving instead? For starters, not everyone wants to hump an oxygen tank on their back and inhale through a rubber tube. And more importantly, scuba doesn't offer anything quite like a hovering craft that lets you give fish a very real UFO experience.

FLYING LOW
The DeepFlight Dragon is no flight of Kickstarter fancy – it comes from serious submarine heritage. For the past two decades, the family-owned concern run by British-born sub pioneer Hawkes has been busy developing what he calls "the most advanced and high-performance personal submarines on the planet". It has been redesigned

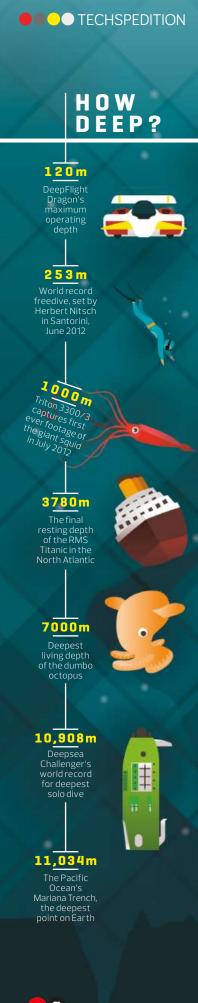
no less than five times. Its predecessor, the Super Falcon, was unveiled a few years ago, but just three units were made to order.

For a certain species of billionaire, the superyacht isn't complete without a submarine that looks like a jet fighter. Sadly, the older Super Falcon doesn't just look like a plane – it also requires the services of a trained pilot. Its design is based around the aerodynamic principles of lift and drag, so it can perform jet-style banks, flips and barrel rolls, all some 120 metres (400 feet) down.

ENTER THE DRAGON

But now the DeepFlight founder says he's ready to venture into another realm entirely. The Dragon, available to preorder for a heady \$1.5m, isn't a race machine, cruising at a top speed of just four knots (around 8km/h). But it does have two unique features. Instead of ballast systems, which conventional subs use to help them drop, the Dragon dives using vertical thrusters. This lack of ballast allows it to have a fixed 'positive buoyancy', ensuring it always floats back to the surface. These thrusters also give it the ability to hover, drone-like, so you can hang out by a reef, admiring the marine life nestling within.

Most importantly, it's very easy to control. "This is the game changer," Graham claims. "It's so smart that even a complete idiot will be able to use it safely." As luck would have it, there's one on hand to put that claim to the test.



SPLASH TEST DUMMY

And so we drive three hours north of San Francisco to the watery playground of Lake Tahoe, in the Sierra Nevada. As we approach the shoreline, it comes into view: the Dragon's slender form is more futuristic F1racer than classic submarine, albeit with hemispherical canopies enclosing both pilots in their respective compartments. To stabilise the craft, there are four cylindrical, quadcopter-style vertical thrusters integrated horizontally at each edge of the drivetrain. Powering them all, a six-hour lithium battery – that's six hours assuming you're not trying to chase a pod of dolphins.

Today our adrenaline is pumping hard – we're getting a chance to actually pilot the sub. With a quick onshore briefing, it really does seem very straightforward: one left-side vertical throttle to control downward thrust; and to our right, a joystick for manoeuvring forward, reverse, left and right at any given depth. Mounted directly ahead outside the cockpit is a unit housing a monochrome display sitting between a manual depth gauge and compass. And that's it. No futuristic touchscreens. In some ways it reminds us of a Lotus: a luscious sporting exterior, but with the most basic of cabins.

As this is one of the inaugural voyages, the obvious 'what if?' questions race through our minds. Being

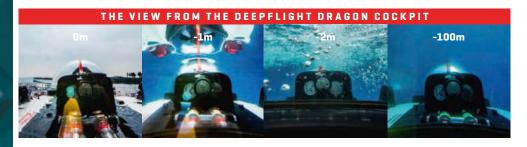
water from the gantry, and we chug gently away from potential hazards - boats and other people, most of whom look suitably curious. The heat beats down on our domed greenhouses. No issue: the oxygen cascading through the air vent keeps us cool. "You ready, Jester?" asks Graham through his two-way Bluetooth headset.

Graham radios up to his team through the marine VHF system. We crane our necks to look up, the view of the receding surface unimpeded through the glass canopy as we sink into the Tahoe waters. And then the bubbles stop, and suddenly we are still. "See?!" exclaims Graham. "We're hovering. That's the most technical of challenges and we've overcome it."

SUNDAY DIVER

Now call us old-fashioned, but when we're in a sub, we want to go deep. Not simply two feet under, even though we recognise this lake is hardly a reefladen paradise. Graham senses we don't share his sense of boyish excitement at the hovering feat, and agrees to venture deeper - with us in control.

And so we thrust the lever forward – a little too aggressively for Graham, who doesn't relish his million-dollar baby plummeting to the lake floor with a maniac at the helm. The LED number counter climbs as we sink, though our ears aren't popping so we're not physically gauging the rate of



THE BUBBLES STOP, AND WE ARE STILL... WE'RE HOVERING

enclosed in an oxygenated bubble up to 120 metres underwater is, we surmise, surely a recipe for risk. What if this prototype misbehaves? After all, only 48 hours earlier the Dragon's maiden excursion had been beset by glitches. Graham tries to reassure us. "We have backup oxygen supplies for 24 hours." And leaks? "It won't leak." Should we do anything really dumb, the veteran submariner could always reclaim control.

THAT SINKING FEELING

With Graham up front, we clamber tentatively into the cockpit. It feels snug, but happily we passed the height (less than 6ft 3in) and weight (under 125kg) test; this is no craft for 'people of size'.

One final piece of business to take care of before launch is call signs. Graham has sorted his already: 'Grey Hawk'. We desperately seek inspiration. 'Jester' it is, then. The platform lowers us into the

descent. Twenty feet. Thirty feet. We look up at the depth gauge. Forty. Fifty. We bank hard to the right. "Whoa!" Graham crackles through the headset. "Easy... pull up. Pull up!"

And within seconds he's wrested back control. We stabilise, and we breathe a sigh of relief as any sniff of disaster is averted. Right now, the onboard software is still a work in progress. The marketready Dragon will be able to tame itself, with depth sensors delineating 'safe zones'.

DAMP SPELLS EXPECTED

We gently ease up to the surface and cruise back to shore. We're relaxed again, and able to contemplate the amazing possibilities the Dragon could present in more scenic waters. We imagine the scuba fraternity will scream deep blue murder. Nothing can beat the freedom of roaming free, they'll argue. And while it's true the Dragon doesn't offer the same experience, it's a far easier, more accessible and arguably safer way to explore the deeps. In the Dragon, someone with zero training can venture far longer and deeper than a recreational scuba diver.

Its current pricetag puts it far outside the means of ordinary people, but DeepFlight confirms that it has plans to make the Dragon available for rent. And who knows? With powerful, efficient motors and batteries becoming cheaper by the minute thanks to the electric car market, it's possible you'll be seeing a lot more of the Dragon and its ilk. Time to start saving.



GET IN THE FLIPPING SEA

If you're looking to splash out, we've got more subs than a well-stocked bakery

TRITON 3300/3

Triton is the grandaddy of civilian sub operations; in the summer of 2012 it achieved a world first when this model managed to film the elusive giant squid. With an operating depth of one kilometre, the Triton certainly trumps the Dragon in raw diving stats. But along with costing several million to buy, its models also need to be operated by a qualified sub pilot. With only 400 of those worldwide, you'd probably best book ahead. R42 million / tritonsubs.com



SCUBSTER NEMO

More scuba accessory than minisub, Scubster's vehicles give divers a speed boost over using traditional flippers. The original model was pedalpowered, but the firm is now raising funds on Kickstarter for this electric model, which can dive as deep as 60m. It can even do rolls and flips, for when you're cruising past a hard-to-impress octopus.

from R140 000 / scubster.org

SEAMAGINE AURORA-3C

This pun-tastic DeepFlight rival has been in the game since the '90s, and its latest model can plunge 1.5km into the deep blue. The bulbous Aurora-3C is spacious enough for two plus a pilot, while its compact form can be plonked on a supervacht. Its acrylic dome gives you a fine view of that hammerhead heading straight for your face. R13.8 million / seamagine.com

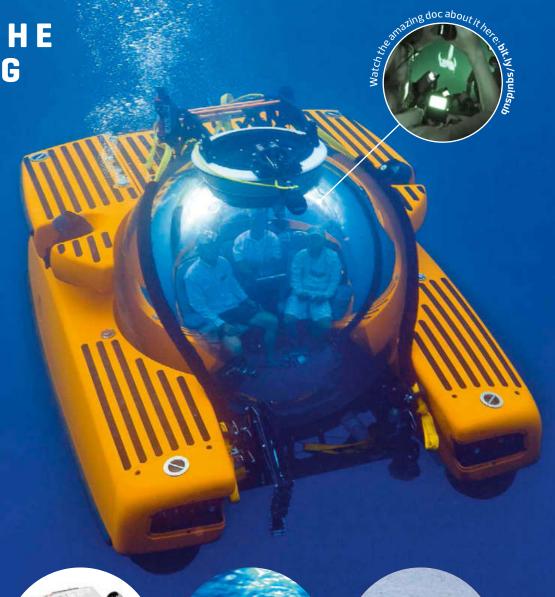


Though you can't quite live on this yellow submarine, it will let you stay down at a depth of 160m for eight hours. Sold by a luxury yacht maker as a little accessory to its megaboats, the sub is almost 3m high and roomy enough for five passengers plus a pilot. Oh, and there's a fridge and an onboard toilet, should the jitters get the best of you. Rpoa / y.co



Normal submarines are all very exciting, until you find out you can terrorise jetskiers in a craft that looks like a shark. The Seabreacher doesn't go lower than a few feet, but skims along the surface at up to 80km/h and (if you're brave) jumps vertically out of the water. There are killer whale and dolphin versions for dedicated followers of cetaceans.

from R1.1 million / seabreacher.com



MUSICA INTRODUCES THE NEW WASPCAM



Armed and ready for battle, the all-new 'Gideon' is WASPcam's premium camera model, pushing out serious pixel-power, higher frame-rate quality and allowing no room for error when it comes to capturing the best shot, thanks to WASPcam's new Live Viewing Display (LVD) Wrist Remote!

R5 999.95



The WASPcam Extending Pole Mount is made from lightweight aluminum for extra durability, and features a handle-grip with a wireless wrist remote holder. The Extending Pole Mount extends from 12 inches to roughly 26.5 inches in length.

R449.95



Prove to your friends and family how far you'll go to capture the coolest shot with a 9900 or 9901 edition WASPcam Action Sports Camera! Packed inside a tiny WASPcam hides the latest technologies, allowing users to efficiently film, edit and share their biggest moments or most interesting perspectives.

R3 999.95



This 2-in-I mount is both a handgrip and a mini tripod. Comfortable, contoured handgrip allows users to stabilize their WASPcam while holding it. Fold out legs allow for use as a tripod.

R199.95



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Eeasy peasy. The SmartCam is wonderfully simple to set up and even has Wi-Fi Direct.

R2500/samsungsmartcam.com

- Techwin is actually a separate company to the Samsung Electronics, but its hardware is just as good.
- For the electronic spaghettiaverse, the cameras support Wi-Fi Direct, or plug them straight into your router using the built-in Ethernet port. Setup is handled using an accompanying smartphone app. Easy peasy.
- You can also control your personal Big Brother setup using the app or transfer video to your mobile device, and each camera has a microSD card slot for storing images and video locally.
- Motion sensors let you set the camera to only notify you or record video when something's moving about — whether it's the neighbour's cat, an intruder or sleepwalking uncle Jacob — and a camera placed in a lounge, with its view split between the dark interior and brightly—lit patio managed clear images of both.
- The viewing angle of 128° and option to record in HD combined with excellent performance in challenging lighting conditions all add up to one of the best IP camera ranges we've had the pleasure of spying on our cats with.

Tech specs

Model Samsung SNH-P6410BN Resolution 1920x1080, 1280x720, 640x360 Zoom 4x Digital Field of view 128°/62°/111° Video Format H.264, MPEG Audio Two-way (Built-in mic & speaker) Connection Ethernet & Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n Weight 293g





■ Scare tactics Both the indoor and outdoor SmartCam models support two-way audio, perfect for scaring the babysitter or booze-cabinet curious teen.



■ Night vision
In addition to being more rugged than its indoor counterpart, the SmartCam HD Outdoor (R2 900) can see in the dark up to 15m.

STUFF SAYS Excellent video quality, easy to set up and easier to use $\star\star\star\star\star$

Until home tech gets a standard, simplest is smartest For smarthome tech to really take off it needs to be easy to install, reliable, simple to use and needs to play nicely with existing solutions or future ones. There's plenty of rivalry to create the standard that'll allow disparate devices to work together but, in the meantime, Techwin's approach means the outcome doesn't matter. Its SmartCams couldn't be much simpler, and that's ultimately what makes them smart.









Gbangs the drums Motorola's cut-price Android wonder is even better in its new third-gen

form... but also more expensive

from R3000 / orange.com/za

- At R4500 for the 16GB, 2GB RAM version we're looking at, the new Moto G is not the insane bargain the first model was when it went on sale for R2 500 in 2013. But by radically improving the camera and keeping the performance, Motorola has made sure it's still better than its main rivals' affordable options.
- For all the hardware upgrades, the Moto G still comes across as a cheaper phone, not a luxury one. The back is plastic, with a ridged finish, and at just under 12mm thick it feels pretty chunky.
- One of the real improvements for 2015 is the waterproofing. Little rubber seals on the battery cover keep water out of the SIM and microSD memory card slots, while the headphone and charge sockets have been treated to take a dunking.
- There's not been all that much progress on the screen: the new G still has a 5in/12.7cm 720p IPS LCD display. It's sharp enough, though, with natural-looking colours and decent outdoor visibility, and the top layer is tough Gorilla Glass 3.
- You get standard Android 5.1.1 Lollipop, and Motorola Migrate makes it easy to port everything from your old phone. Battery life is decent, with 15-30% left after a day's use, and this phone runs like a dream: there's no lag and transitions are super-smooth.

Tech specs

Screen 5in/12.7cm 1280x720 IPS LCD **Processor** 1.4GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 quad-core OS Android 5.1.1 Cameras 13MP rear, 5MP front Battery 2470mAh Storage 8/16GB (+ up to 32GB microSD) RAM 1GB/2GB Dimensions 142x74x12mm, 155g



Pic of the bunch The most improved part of this Moto G is the camera. The original's was pretty dreadful; the second-gen one was much better, but remained one of the weakest parts of the design. This 13MP unit is really quite good.



Backs to the future While our review phone was plain old monochrome, you can now pick all sorts of colours using the Moto Maker website. You can even customise the camera 'accent', letting you get a pretty loud'n'proud look if you want it.

STUFF SAYS Everything we liked about the old Moto G, with bags of quality added $\star\star\star\star\star$

Double the RAM, double the fun: why we'd happily go the extra Ř1500

The basic version of the Moto G has just 1GB of RAM and 8GB of storage. It's R1500 less, at R3 000, meaning it can still just about call itself a budget phone, and shares all the improvements enjoyed by its 2GB big brother in terms of camera quality and waterproofing. That's an option if you're right at the top of your budget, then, but be warned that the difference in performance is likely to be considerable.

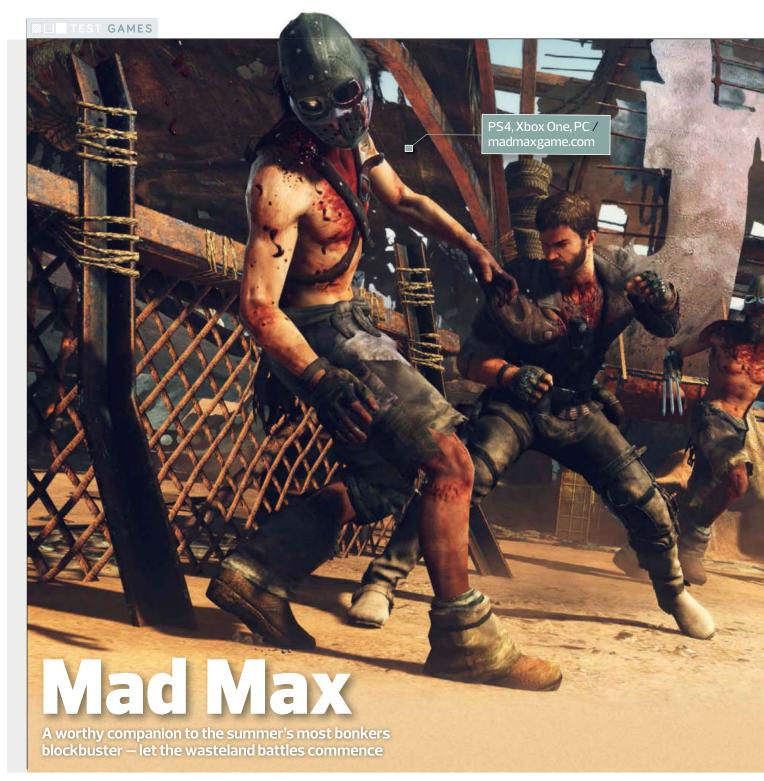
brother at your side











he Arkham series upturned the action game genre. Six years after Asylum, games are still paying homage – Shadow Of Mordor was basically Batman: Tolkien Edition, and now there's Batman: Insane Super Thirsty Edition, aka Mad Max.

The main ingredients in the Rocksteady recipe are the same: stylish, timing-dependent combat, and open environments strewn with challenges.

Those fools who thought that Furiosa undeservedly stole the

show in the recent movie will be disappointed to find Max has been upstaged again: this time, by his car. As the opening credits close, Max stumbles upon a hunchback mechanic (the charmingly named Chumbucket) with a plan to make the Sistine Chapel of desert vehicles: the Magnum Opus. You soon realise that building and then endlessly tinkering with this fourwheeled death machine is the real point of the game.

In the vast apocalyptic wastes, a front-facing battering ram or

upgraded harpoon make all the difference. Max must use the Opus to eradicate the many snipers, flamethrowers and waterfalls of Molotov cocktails that stand in his way.

It's in these high-octane scenes that Mad Max is most successful. In its visual splendour and its spirit, this half of the game has all the frivolity for which the franchise is so well known.

However, Max is no Batman, and as such his skillset is less than superhuman. Combat often feels

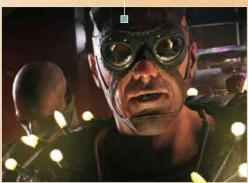
staid, and its flow is broken by Max's inability to dart from one enemy to the next. New enemies are introduced regularly and bases become more intimidating, but the on-foot adventuring can be monotonous. You'll pine for more time driving in a stylish barrage of explosions.

If only our Aussie hero wasn't holding the Opus back, then Mad Max would be a smash from start to finish. As it is, it's just slightly in the shadow of its contemporaries.

STUFF SAYS Rollicking good fun, but unlikely to remain emblazoned in your memory ★★★★☆









Game vs film: the Mad Max mythos

Let's be very clear, this is not a Mad Max: Fury Road video game. You're not Tom Hardy and you're definitely not Mel Gibson. This is an open-world game based on — in the words of Avalanche Studios audio designer Magnus Lindberg — "freedom and incentive to explore the world you have created".

have created".

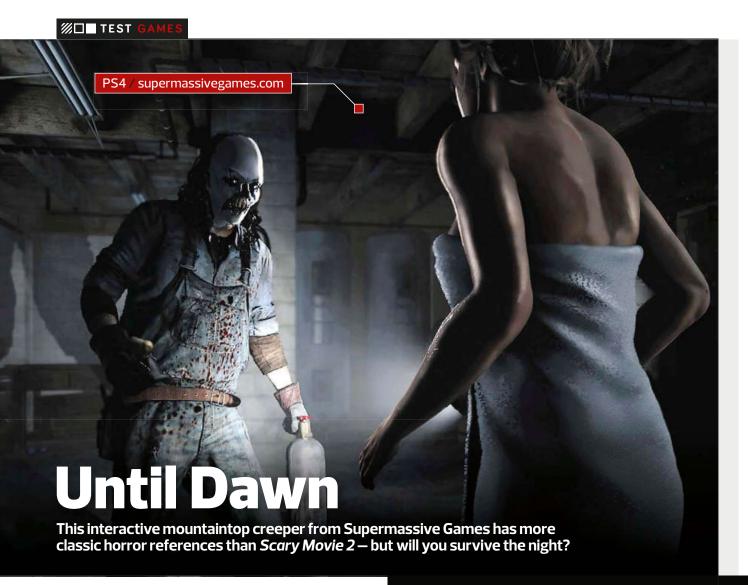
The desolate, dystopian universe in which Max exists is just a mythos (a downright miserable one) — each film being a unique take, with this game an additional one. Game designer Emil Kraftling says: "This allows us the creative freedom to make the best possible game experience and not be limited by dictated rules in terms of story."

and not be limited by dictated rules in terms of story."

That means you're not going to be fighting to protect a pregnant Rosie Huntington-Whiteley from Immortan Joe — you're going to be driving around beating up warboys, collecting fuel, surviving and helping out whichever inhabitants are not trying to kill you.

collecting fuel, surviving and helping out whichever inhabitants are not trying to kill you.

As Lindberg says, "There's a different mindset in the wasteland. You don't have an abundance of everything, everywhere, at any time, so as a player you have to calculate your steps."



combination of the biggest clichés in horror films with the biggest clichés in gaming, Until Dawn is somehow far better (and scarier) than it should be.

The interactive genre has been out of fashion for years, and its return has been most unexpected. We've already had the likes of The Vanishing Of Ethan Carter and Everybody's Gone To The Rapture offering fresh takes on playable storytelling.

But Until Dawn isn't what you'd call fresh; its stereotypical story and characters combine with that most banal game design element: the quick time event. You know, when you're prompted to tap a button so your character can make a jump or avoid an obstacle.

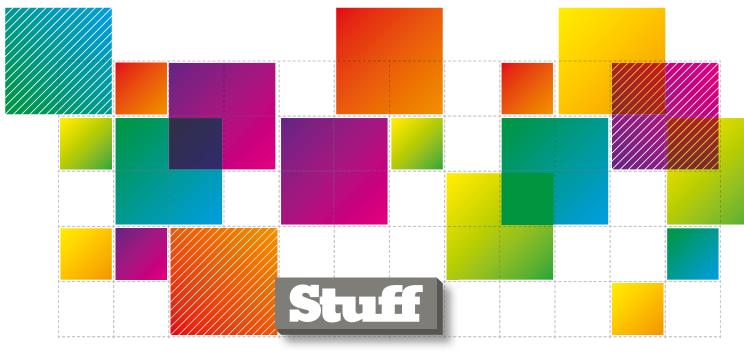
And yet, it works. The decision to populate the cast with irritating, horny teens initially seems a misjudged lean towards horror movie conventions, but they're so well thought out that you find yourself putting every effort into keeping them all alive. Not that they will all live, of course. They're stuck in an otherwise unoccupied mountain resort, with no hope of rescue until daybreak, and something is hunting them. Is it a hoax? A vengeful psychopath? Ghosts? In fully playable sections you explore and collect clues, but you're kept guessing.

Regardless, their fate is down to you. Will you go back for a fallen friend, or flee and save yourself? Will you chop off your own fingers or attempt to prise open the bear trap they're stuck in? Everything has consequences.

And it's scary. Occasionally hugely, boxer-blemishingly scary. Some sections involve remaining completely motionless (as tracked by the DualShock), and are tense almost beyond belief.

There are certain elements that become repetitive, but Until Dawn plays expertly with some of the best scary movie traditions. Unlike a film, though, this is a nine-hour experience, and your first impulse once you finish is to start all over again to see how differently things can turn out.







p94 PLAYLIST: **ANIME**

Turning Japanese, we think we're turning Japanese, we really think so



p96 SUPER GEEK: LEGO

The appeal of the bricks, explained by a man made of yellow plastic – who some consider to be a modern day barefoot torture master



p98 INSTANT UPGRADES: DOG TECH

These canine gadgets really are the dog's...



Finished all your Nordic noir and Californian comedy? It's time to visit the strange world of Japanese anime - a place that's had more than a minor influence on western TV





Attack On Titan

Imagine Band Of Brothers but replace Nazis with grinning behemoths that feast on human flesh, and you get this bleak but compelling show. It explores the horrors of war through the eyes of three young cadets trying to liberate mankind from their oppressors. Who happen to be massive cannibals. Not for the easily spooked.











Mushi-Shi

It might be the most subdued anime here. but it's still one of the best. Each episode is an allegorical vignette of the lives of ordinary Japanese people in the 19th century and their encounters with supernatural creatures known as Mushi. Its atmosphere of calm and contemplation is strangely soothing, like unexpectedly finding yourself in the shower.

Berserk

One for those who enjoy intricate character studies. Oh, and enough blood to make Kill Bill look like a Victorian tea party. Based on the '90s manga series, Berserk is reminiscent of Marlowe's Tamburlaine it's a slow burner that gently pulls you towards its inexorable conclusion. Don't make Guts mad.

Cowboy Bebop

If you're only going to watch one show on this list, make it this. Consistently lauded as the greatest anime of all time, it sees director Shinichiro Watanabe overlay his wild-west-in-space drama with a mighty jazz soundtrack. You'll wonder how you ever lived without space battles accompanied by piano improv. And Faye Valentine.

Puella Magi Madoka Magica

Typical 'magical girl' anime is airy with glitzy transformation scenes and hyperbolic villainy. This turns the subgenre on its head. Don't let their sweeter-than-thou appearance fool you: this story of five girls and their battle with malevolent beings known as witches is a Faustian tragedy. First appearances...

Ghost In The Shell: Stand **Alone Complex**

The original inspired The Matrix and took cyberpunk to new artistic levels. This is a future where humans can transfer their consciousness to machines; the digital world is as dangerous as reality. One of sci-fi's most skilfully realised universes. Learn the acronym early on - GITSSAC.

The 'mecha' genre (giant robots having massive fights) may have inspired the Transformer films, but its manga and anime originators are a far superior breed. This show, with humanoid robots and prodigy pilots, oozes equal parts intellect and sheer incomprehensibility.



Kill La Kill

Ostentatious, dripping in parody, and it has quite rightly been dubbed insane, but a couple of years ago the only name on any anime fan's lips was Kill La Kill. Why? It blends the 'faster, better, stronger' structure of 'shonen' anime with tropes from the magical girl genre, with bizarre and compelling results. One for cosplayers.

Gintama

This comedy has run for hundreds of episodes. How has it lasted so long? By being terribly funny, and terribly weird. It follows Gintoki, a samurai in Edo period Japan (which is overtaken by aliens), trying to pay the rent by doing odd jobs. It's a masterclass in comic timing though it may take time for jokes to click.

Paranoia Agent

Unconnected people are being murdered by a figure known only as Shonen Bat and there are weird happenings in Tokyo – as usual. This 'magical realism' anime has a page-turning plot, but the show's purpose is to explore the psychological innards of its cast, splattered across the screen in a wonderfully abstract fashion. Totally unmissable.

Steins; Gate

This time-travel drama sees a self-professed mad scientist and his team scramble between different times, resulting in brain-mangling plotlines. Its magic lies in its multiple layers, with seamless transitions between light and dark moods. It's also hard not to fall in love with the cast. Don't underestimate the drama potential.



If you can't find the anime you're after on the likes of Netflix, head to **crunchyroll.com** or animaxtv.co.uk - they have hundreds of shows available to stream and, if you don't mind the adverts, will let you devour all your neart desires for free



SUB. DON'T DUB

The one thing most likely to ruin your first anime experience is bad dubbing. In general, the English dubs for anime are utterly atrocious. Never judge an anime you've watched dubbed before you've switched to subtitles, restored the original audio and tried again.



ADVENTUROL

It's tempting to replicate your taste in live action when exploring anime, but there are many anime-specific genres that might tickle your tastebuds. 'Mecha' is all about giant robots, while 'slice of life' is more character-driven.





Bricks magazine editor Mark Guest reveals how Lego became a pop cultural phenomenon, and why it's no longer just little kids who are clicking for joy

ccording to the webcomic XKCD, the population of Lego mini-figures will overtake that of humans by 2019. That's an incredible (and, for Legophobes, terrifying) rise from the plastic brick's humble origins in 1958. Back then it was seen as a kids' construction toy. But then came the internet. and suddenly a new breed of enthusiasts known as AFOLs (adult fans of Lego) took it to new levels of complexity.

Heft my passion for Lego behind in my late teens but, like so many AFOLs, found myself

drawn back in with the release of the Lego Star Wars sets in 1999. After building the likes of the Super Star Destroyer (all 3000 pieces of it), I started imagining how I could make scenes out of exciting ranges such as the Lone Ranger sets.

With every new annual Lego release list, the choices get wider. More and more sets are breaking the R2000 barrier, piece numbers are increasing, and some even come with display plagues and stands. Last year's Batman Tumbler vehicle from The Dark Knight (R3000, toysrus.co.za)

came in the now not-so-rare category of 'ages 16+'.

Not that it's all about locking yourself away to puzzle over the next brick-based challenge. These days, Lego shows are a regular fixture in exhibition halls. The big one this year is Brick (brickshowslive.com), which will see giant, fan-built worlds for the likes of Tomb Raider and world record attempts at the NEC and London's ExCeL in October and December respectively.

For real Lego disciples, the holy land is Lego's HO in Billund. Denmark. Its official 'Inside Tour' tickets cost R30 000 per person and usually sell out within five minutes. But for a sense of Lego history and a family trip that you can claim is just for the kids, Denmark's Legoland is also well worth a visit.

If you want to get involved from home, the Lego Ambassador Network (lan.lego.com) will show events and groups near you. And Lego Ideas (ideas.lego.com) is a brilliant new platform for user-submitted designs that occasionally get turned into real sets. Fingers crossed for the International Space Station...



If you're finding standard 'Studs Not On Top' pieces let you branch out by including studs on the sides for the creation of more complex builds like curved walls.

■ CHEESE SLOPE

Officially known as part number 50746, this handy wedge-shaped brick has a 33° slope and is one stud square, making it ideal for adding fine details such as roof tiles.

LUG

'Lego User Groups' are local or regional clubs that organise real-world Lego exhibitions. If you can't find one nearby you can apply to create your own.

GREEBLING

The practice of adding believable mechanical details like engines and cockpits to enhance the appearance of a Lego creation. It's mostly seen in Lego Space and Mecha builds.





TEMPLE OF AIRJITZU

Even if you haven't exactly been glued to the Ninjago TV series, the theme's new flagship set looks destined to be a Lego classic for all ages. For older collectors, the village has a few tricky build techniques and dozens of neat touches like the bridge and spinning shadow theatre. But there's also lots of playability for kids and the generous inclusion of 12 minifigures, including six ninjas. This alone guarantees its inclusion on lots of people's Christmas lists; and with over 2000 pieces, it's a serious building project that could stretch well into the new year.

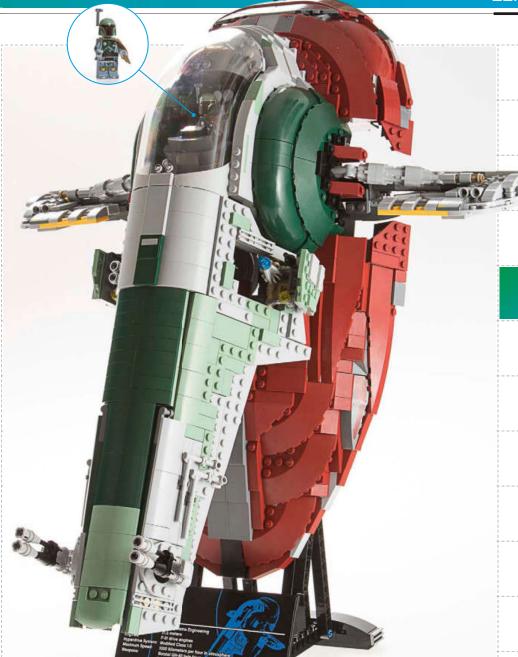
R3600 (import) / lego.com





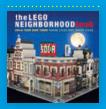
It might sound unfair to call a set released in 2012 'retro', but the Haunted House was part of a very short-lived theme called Monster Fighters that was on shelves for only 10 months. The theme's sets have shown a tendency to appreciate in value and this one's scale and level of detail (plus its glow-in-the-dark ghosts) make it very desirable for collectors. It has many playable features but the real AFOL appeal is its ability to fit within the modular town range – and all those lovely sand green bricks. To find a 'brand new in box' one now for under R6000 would be considered a good find.

from R5700 / ebay.com



BRICKSET

THE WEBSITE
BRICKSET
An encyclopaedic
reference for all levels
of collectors, Brickset is the biggest and best unofficial Lego news site. Beyond its news feed, user-generated reviews and forums, Amazon 'bot that tells you which sets have been discounted by 25% or more – handy for last-minute gifts or bargain-hunting.



THE LEGO NEIGHBORHOOD BOOK

Got a decent-sized penchant for urban planning? This guide to building your own Lego town includes instructions for creating multi-storey buildings as well as ideas for interior design. See also the inspirational The Lego Architect, which you can scoop up online.



SLAVE1

This iconic craft from the *Star Wars* universe has been released in set form four times before, but never at this scale. The 45cm-long ship is part of Lego's Ultimate Collector Series (UCS), which means it comes with a display stand and a staggering level of detail. This includes a carbonite-imprisoned Han Solo for storing in the cargo hold, a rotating cockpit, stacks of hidden guns and missiles for hunting fugitives and a new, ornate Boba Fett minifigure. Older UCS sets like the 2008 Death Star or last year's Sandcrawler might be more tempting, but this is an essential piece for any collector's library.

R3600 (import) / lego.com

WORLD OF LEGO This insightful (if stage-managed) peek inside Lego's HQ reveals the brick-making process and making process and cult-like atmosphere. The shadowing of a UK design student who's looking to land his dream job adds a compelling narrative to a film that could

have only scratched the plastic surface.

THE SECRET





1GOPRO FETCH

If you've ever wondered what the world looks like to your dog, try this – the results are strangely addictive. The GoPro Fetch harness allows you to mount your GoPro (or any cam with a compatible mount) onto your pup in two locations: the chest, for flowerbed-digging, bone-chewing, front-paw action; and the back, for those over-the-head shots of ball-chasing and field-bounding. Padded for comfort and completely washable, it's fully adjustable to fit dogs of all sizes between 7kg and 54kg. R750 / ormsdirect.co.za



2 IFETCH

Playing ball with your dog is all well and good for the first 20 minutes, but if you're having a slobbery thing dropped in your lap from morning 'til night, you're going to need a break. The iFetch automatic ball thrower is the perfect gadget for fetch fiends – simply choose your range (3m, 6m or 9m), drop one of the included balls in the chute and let the iFetch do all the armwork for you. If your dog learns to load it up too, though, your role as chief thrower could fast become redundant.

from R4 800 / wantitall.co.za



MOTOROLA SCOUT 85 WI-FI HD MONITOR

You can't be around Dogtanian all the time, but you can keep an eye on him via this RSPCAapproved petcam. It packs a motorised pan, tilt and digital zoom function that gives you a 300° view of your pooch, all controllable from your iOS or Android device. There's infrared night vision, a two-way audio communication feature for doggy chatting, and notifications when noise or movement is detected. You can even set it up for motion-triggered recording to view the highlights later. R2 200 (import) / amazon.com





SADTC

If you're looking to get your pooch trained, either in general or for specific purposes like protection, therapy or agility training, the S.A. Dog Training College and Kennels (SADTC) will be able to help. They're based in Gauteng but should be able to direct you'if you're looking for help elsewhere. sadogtraining.co.za



BRAVEHEART

If Fido has a a military streak or disposition, you might want to send him or her to military school. In this case, the Braveheart Bio-Dog Academy, which specialises in K9 unit training, nartotics and bomb detection as well as patrol, tracking and protection animals. Or you can donate, adopt or secure some gear or services.



PET MOVERS

You're moving home and you need to bring your pupples along. But dumping them on a plane isn't going to happen, and you're not sticking them in a truck. What do you do? Speak to some specialists, like Pet Movers who can help get your dog from town-to-town or even to (or from) overseas if need be.



4 CLEVERPET

It might not have next-gen graphics, but this canine console could be your dog's equivalent of Fallout 4. Designed by a group of neuroscience PhDs, the CleverPet automatically rewards your mutt with treats for solving simple light-based puzzles. The game gets trickier as your dog improves, while you view their progress from afar in the CleverPet app. If that all sounds a bit like pet toy overkill, Nina Ottosson's brain-busting puzzles (nina-ottosson.com) are a fine analogue alternative. Rtbc / getcleverpet.com



5 THUNDERSHIRT

If your dog scarpers at the first sign of thunder, turns into a shivering wreck come Guy Fawkes, hates car travel or suffers with any other form of anxiety, the Thundershirt promises to combat fearful and nervous behaviour without the need for pills. With a claimed success rate of over 80%, the Thundershirt is a snug-fitting jacket that acts in a similar way to swaddling a baby, applying constant gentle pressure to the body to give your dog a sense of security. Research backs up its effectiveness, and vets and dog trainers alike recommend it. R550 / shingavet.co.za



6 KIPPY GPS TRACKER

If your dog is a known escape artist, or you just want peace of mind should you ever get separated, this GPS tracker will calm your nerves. Kippy is a small, lightweight device that attaches onto a collar and allows you to track where your pet is at all times using an iOS, Android or Windows Phone device. It uses both GPS and mobile phone mast triangulation to locate your dog should he/she go rogue and provides directions to get there quickly. You can also set up a geofence around your home for notifications as soon as the beast gets out. R2800 / petsathome.com



ALWAYS ON CALL

facebook.com/stuffsa@StuffSA

MAIL OF THE MONTH

Q TO DROID OR NOT TO DROID?

I've been an avid Apple user for the past 10 years and as such have customised both my work and home environments into Apple ecosystems (iPods, iPhones, iPads, Macbook Pros, Macbook Air, iMacs & Apple TV). But lately I have been intrigued by some new developments in the Android (uni) verse. I am thinking of dipping my toes in said verse by getting a Moto X, especially after your extensive review of it in a previous Stuff edition. However I've got two major concerns and they are as follows: Will bringing an Android kid into Apple turf enable seamless interaction of the two systems, especially in transferring data, photos, contacts, apps, etc, or will it mean an entanglement of not

only cables but hardware and software as well, which I would do well to avoid? And with the Moto X 2 almost a year old, would you advise I still get this version, or wait for the upcoming Moto X Style? Thanks in advance for your help!

Way to go being willing to Way to go being which try something new. By the sound of things you've actually got everything well in hand - not sure you really needed the assist. But here goes. An Android should play nice with most of what you've got there already, though it won't be as simple to set up as Apple's iDevices. And (part 2) the Moto X Style is tough to find here but you can grab the Moto X Play quite easily online (R5700, store. orange.com/za).

Speak your brains to Stuff and you could win! This letter wins a Thule Stravan 13in MacBook

Deluxe Attache to the value of R1299

BETTER THAN TEXT?

Hey Stuff, I use WhatsApp Web all the time to reply to messages on my PC and Hove it - so much better than messing around with onscreen keyboards and really useful for days in the office. Annoyingly, though, I still have to use my phone to reply to text messages. Is there any Android magic you could whip up to help me out?

Sara, we've got one word A Sara, we ve got one for you: Pushbullet. It's an incredibly useful app that pairs up with a free browser extension, letting you not only send and receive text messages on your PC, but even access your phone folders remotely! Everything you send is encrypted, so no need to worry about privacy.

REACHING FOR Q THE STARS

Hi Stuff, my son and I have been inspired by the Pluto landing and I'd love to have a telescope for us to explore the stars together. I'm a complete beginner, and realise a decent bit of kit will be quite pricey, so I reckon a motorised unit on a R10 000 budget is what I'm after. Anything you can recommend for us? Martin

Congratulations on your first foray into the wonders of the cosmos, brother, Our first bit of advice would actually be to find your nearest specialist shop and let them take you through all the options, as this is a very specific field. Having said that, we've done a bit of research and note that the Celestron NexStar 130SLT Reflector (R8700, takealot. co.za) offers enough imaging power to spot craters on the moon and identify galaxies, while locating them for you automatically thanks to its

built-in motor

Congratulations to our Asus competition winner: Dewald v.d. Rijst and our LGSUHD TV winner: Gerald Burger and our Ghost winner: Sello Bopape

Next month's best letter wins a Thule Atmos X5 iPhone 6 cover to the value of R1499. The Thule Atmos X5 has easy, tool-free installation and is the only waterproof case on the market with screen impact protection.



OF EVERYTHING

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For reviews of products featured in the top 10s, visit stuff.co.za

Prices quoted are the best available at the time of printing





Samsung Galaxy S6

This is a new era for Samsung, with a smart upgrade that fixes not just things that were amiss in the Galaxy S5, but things that have plagued them for years. No plastic here: its front and back are super-tough Gorilla Glass 4, its sides aluminium. In terms of ergonomics and speaker quality, HTC still wins, but only just. And in the more important areas of camera performance, screen tech and raw power, the Galaxy S6 tramples its rival. We just wish it had a microSD slot.

STUFF SAYS

Samsung has proven its critics wrong - the Galaxy S6 is the new benchmark for flagship phones

from R12 400 ★★★★★

1
*

Apple iPhone 6s By the time you read this, the iPhone 6s will have a price in SA and will have found many new homes. But while the only thing we don't know is the cost, what we do know is that the 6s makes all the improvements over the iPhone 6. Pity you can't tell them apart.

Rtba ****





Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge

The Edge, with its wraparound screen, is the ultimate money-no-object phone. It's techier and beefier than its brother, but it's also a good deal pricier. Its curvy USP may be more about style than anything else, but come on, it's pretty darned cool.

from R16 150 ****

BEST FOR CUTTING-EDGE GADGETEERS





The leather-clad LG G4 is a treat for those who want something that looks and feels a bit different. Its camera is incredibly powerful, giving you almost as much control as a DSLR, and the large screen is brilliant... but the battery life holds it back from the top. R9 000 ****





Apple iPhone 6

With its slim, deeply attractive build and software overhaul, the iPhone 6 is the freshest-feeling iPhone in years. Its larger screen is big enough to be a useful improvement, with gorgeous colours, and this is Apple's best ever battery.

from R9 900 ****





LG surprises us again. There's barely a single thing wrong with the G3... and so, so much that's right. Upgrades range from sleeker back buttons to the bigger, better 2K screen and laser-assisted camera. And it still lasts 15 hours. How do they do it? R9 000 ****





Sony Xperia Z3 Compact

This is, without a shadow of a doubt, the best sub-5in/12.7cm Android phone around. The power of a full-size flagship, an excellent camera and an impressive battery life are all crammed into a device that's a pleasure to use no matter the size of your digits...

R6 700 ****

BEST FOR DAINTY HANDS



Xiaomi Mi4

Newcomer Xiaomi is toting some impressive tech. As a value proposition they're top of the class but will they convince the SA consumer that they have what it takes to dethrone Samsung, LG and Apple? The Mi4 goes a long way to proving they can.

R4 000





Huawei P8

Huawei's newest flagship has some serious skills when it comes to its camera. It likes to play games with light but it's sadly lacking the bit of extra polish we'd expect before it can be moved higher up on the list of awesome. Get 'em next time.

from R7 400



Sony Xperia M4 Aqua

A mid-range smartphone that posts results that make flagship devices look nervously at their bottom line, the M4 Aqua's Xperia pedigree also makes certain that you can dunk, drown and otherwise swim with Sony's octa-core bargain handset. Wow.

from R4 000 ★★★★☆ Prices quoted are for handset only unless otherwise stated







Samsung Galaxy Note 4 Yes, the Galaxy Note 5 has been announced and we've heard good things. But we haven't had a chance to carress its keys yet so the Galaxy Note 4, with its excellent 5.7-in/14.5cm Super AMOLED screen, powerful Exynos 5433 or Snapdragon 805 chip, 32GB of storage, 16MP camera and up to 128GB of microSD-added space is still the phablet champion.

STUFF SAYS

The phablet to choose when you want everything under one umbrella, from power to smarts to photo chops.

from R9 000 ★★★★

2		Apple iPhone 6 Plus Apple's first phablet and they're sitting at number 2? Did you expect anything less from the first full HD smartphone from Cupertino. Their usual iOS wizardry is in evidence, the camera is brilliant, it just takes some getting used to for Apple fans.	from R13 000	
3		Huawei Mate 7 Huawei's 6in/15.2cm Mate 7 doesn't really fit the bill of supreme cutting–edge but it has price and surprising performance, considering the 1.2GHz octa–core Snapdragon CPU, as well as the 13MP/5MP camera setup in its favour. Plus that massive battery. Nice.	R8 000	BEST FOR THE BUDGET- CONSCIOUS
4	T,	LG G4 Can a phone be in two places at one? Yes, it can. The LG G4, while LG's main flagship handset for 2015, is also a great phablet in its own right. With LG's stellar camera tech, that oversized 5.5in/14cm screen make this a tiny phablet but it makes the grade.	R9 000	
5		Nokia Lumia 1520 It's getting a little long in the tooth but the Lumia 1520 is still a great phablet. 6in/15.2cm display, a 20MP PureView camera and enough processing power to still stand proud among the newcomers are yours to command.	R8 000	
6		Samsung Galaxy Note Edge We're probably never going to see the like of the 2.7GHz, 3GB RAM, 32GB storage Galaxy Note Edge ever again. Not because it's a bad phablet with its 5.6in/14.2cm QHD edged display but because it's about to be supplanted by the Galaxy S6 Edge+.	from R11 200	
7		Google Nexus 6 A 5.9ln/15cm QHD display, Android Lollipop, a Snapdragon 805, 3GB of system memory and 32GB of storage from Google? That's a phablet to be proud of. The only problem with these slick slices of hardware is that they're hard to find in South Africa.	R6 750	
8		Xiaomi Note Pro Xiaomi's Note Pro is the best device we've seen from the Chinese newcomer, with 5.7in/14.5cm of QHD screen, the flagship-chasing Snapdragon 810, a massive 4GB of RAM and 64GB of storage at your fingertips. It can get better but not a whole lot.	Rtba	
9		Huawei G7 If you're search of a budget phablet then Huawei's G7 has you covered. Mid-range specs, including 2GB of RAM and 16GB of storage, and a 5.5in/14cm 720p display will give you the phablet experience at a fraction of the cost.	R4 700 ★★★☆	
10		Sony Xperia Z Ultra The biggest, and the oldest, on the phablet list, Sony's Xperia Z Ultra is a 6.4in/16.3cm monster that packs a Snapdragon 800, water – and dust-proofing, an 8MP cam and 16GB of storage. It's due for a refresh soon as well but this is a budget beater for now.	from R5 000 ★★★☆	





Apple MacBook Pro 13in (2015)
Apple hasn't changed too many parts of the MacBook Pro for 2015. There's a fancy new trackpad and the latest generation of Intel CPUs, which deliver better stamina as well as a chunk more power. This is an incremental upgrade, but given how good the Pro already was, that's more than enough to keep it right at the top of the laptop honours list. If you need power as well as stamina and portability, this is one of the best laptops money can buy.

STUFF SAYS

If it ain't broke... it hasn't radically changed, but the Pro's performance and trackpad are top of its class

from R19 600 ****

Asus ZenBook UX305

Asus knows what it's doing. It knows that the Apple MacBook Air laptops are treading water and the ZenBook UX305 is pretty much everything the 2015 Air should have been, with its fetching aluminium design and as good a display as any laptop.

from R12 000

Microsoft Surface Pro 3

The fact that it's one of only two devices to feature in two of our Top Tens is a testament to the Surface Pro's versatility: it's a strong tablet, but its full-fat operating system and powerful innards mean it's also a worthy adversary to Ultrabooks and MacBooks.

from R17 100 ****

BEST FOR WORKING ANYWHERE

Lenovo X1 Carbon

This is it, the best Windows machine we've had occasion to caress in a long, long time. The Quad HD does little to lessen our esteem. So why so low down the list? Gimmicky voice and gesture control, for one, and that multi-function strip could use a little work. R33 000 **** **BEST FOR** SOOTHING YOUR EYEBALLS



Apple MacBook (2015)

This is no 'Air', nor 'Pro': a clear sign that this is what Apple sees as the future of the ultraportable laptop. And it's certainly very desirable: a 12in lean machine with a superb screen and haptic touchpad. However, the lack of ports can be frustrating.

from

R19 600 ****



MSI GT80 2QE Titan

We didn't nickname the Titan the Beast for nothing. MSI's monster fits the bill in every sense of the word. Power, specs, size and power draw, as well as noise. But it'll play anything and everything you toss into its gaping maw without blinking.

R50 000 ****

BEST FOR SHOWING OFF IN PUBLIC



Dual GTX970M GPUs, a Core i7 4870HQ brainbox, 16GB of RAM as standard and an HD 17.3in/44cm display in one of the lightest packages you'll see make the X7 Pro the most portable desktop replacement we've ever seen. Also: All the gaming power.

from R34 000



Apple MacBook Air 13in (2015)

Apple is scraping by with pretty much the same Air design as before. You get a new processor, new connectors and slightly improved battery life, but still no Retina screen. However, if a portable road warrior is what you're after, this is still a great choice.

from

R19 000 **★★★☆**





MSI GT72 2QE Dominator Pro

Big, loud and powerful, this is the SUV of gaming laptops. Even the price, which is up against the R50k mark, marks this as a serious piece of kit. The 17.3-in/44cm HD LED display, GTX 980M, 16GB RAM and the Core i7 4710 HQ silicon heart are a big clue.

R42 000 ****

BEST FOR FRAGGING NOOBS



Lenovo Yoga Pro 3

The third entry in the Yoga Pro line refines the laptop/tablet hybrid design with a power-sipping new Intel Core M processor plus slimness and style to make even the MacBook Air look worried. And you can stand it up like a tent. If you want.

from R24 000 ★★★★☆









Myfox Security Cam

With its un-menacing hockey puck design, the Myfox comes with a motorised shutter that closes the lens with a tap on the app. This app displays key motion/noise events, allowing you to scroll quickly through the day's events or back through the calendar.



Netatmo Welcome

Netatmo has added face recognition capability, so as well as sensing motion and sound it'll tell you when your kids get home from school. We like the way profiles can be adjusted, and the Empty Home button that heightens sensitivity when needed.



Nest Cam

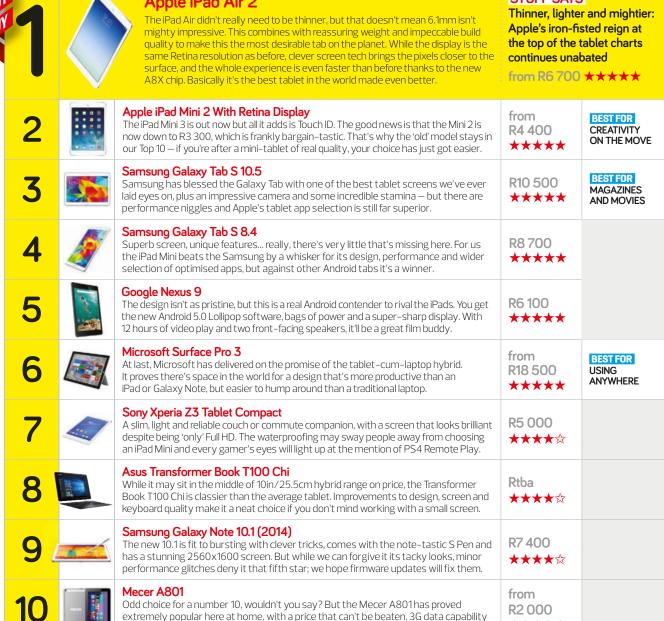
This security cam works seamlessly alongside the Nest family of thermostats and smoke detectors. Set your thermostat to 'away' and the camera will switch on; burn a crumpet and the results will be captured in glorious Full HD. The picture quality is superb.



Netgear Arlo

Netgear has made its Arlo totally wireless, with a battery life of six months. It operates between -9 and 50°C, so can be left outdoors in any weather. The system is expandable up to 15 cameras, four of which can be viewed live at the same time on the app.







and enough specs to keep Windows 8.1 running along nicely. Also: R2000!



106 WEARABLES

HO BY	1		Jawbone UP3 Would you believe, a firmware update? And a few other chance happenings, to be completely honest, which have come together to put the UP3 on top. New firmware gives the UP3 better sleep tracking, passive heart monitoring and a couple of other missing features, and the Smart Coach is still our very best friend. Oh, and that Runtastic partnership? Awesome!	STUFF SAYS You might leave home without it to you will quickly we you hadn't. R2 400 ***	vish
UPDA	2		Apple Watch Dropped due to lack of availability. Seriously, that's it. The Apple Watch is still one of the best all-round wearables you'll ever see but finding it in SA is tough. Still, we hear rumblings that med-scheme Discovery has plans afoot	from R9 000	
	3	In the state of th	Pebble Steel The Steel keeps the straightforward looks, crisp display and five-day battery life that helped the standard Pebble win our hearts. But it holds more memory, apps and customisable faces, and swaps the plastic for a stylish metal suit.		BEST FOR BATTERY LIFE
	4		Garmin Fenix 3 This is a serious sports watch. It's especially geared for triathlon, with a dedicated race mode, but it's also a great training tool for each discipline and other sports besides. It doesn't do heart monitoring, but a 10-day battery life is your compensation.	R8 500 ★★★☆	
	5		Motorola Moto 360 With its circular design, this is a smartwatch that's actually a smart watch. The Moto 360's our favourite and most comfortable Android Wear watch so far, but its battery life might make you anxious and it's a few specs short of brilliance.	from R3 500 ★★★☆	
	6	() IN	Fitbit Charge HR The Charge HR includes the pedometer, altimeter and silent alarms of its predecessors but adds an excellent heart-rate monitor while still lasting five days between charges.	K2 300	BEST FOR TRACKING YOUR LIFE
	7		Jawbone UP24 Now with Bluetooth for hassle-free syncing, the stylish UP24 is worth the extra cash over the Jawbone Up. The app introduces new challenges and tracks your sleep patterns. It will also gently nudge you, if you're lazing around, to get back on the move.	R1 900	
	8	1	Samsung Gear Live Could it be fourth time lucky for Android Wear? A waterproof 1.63in/4.14cm Super AMOLED screen, a resting heart monitor and a growing selection of apps say yes. Overall, the Samsung just pips the LG G Watch. Its pitiful one-day battery life lets it down, though.	R3 000 ★★★☆	
	9		LG G Watch R This circular smartwatch won't win any beauty contests, but that's about its only flaw. The G Watch R's plastic OLED screen has deep blacks, sharp text and good visibility. Its battery easily lasts a day and a half, and using it is a smooth experience.	R3 550 ★★★☆	
	10		Garmin Forerunner 620 Garmin's wealth of experience in wrist-mounted GPS shines through, offering up a cacophony of stats, including vertical oscillation (how much you jiggle while running) thanks to the smart heart-rate belt. Could be cheaper and more user-friendly, though.	from R6 350 ★★★☆	



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LG 65UF850T

Let's cause some whiplash with LG's extremely stylish 65UF850T 4K TV, an immense screen that still manages to be fairly cheap, all things considered. Value for money is a thing, and you're getting a lot of that here — webOS, 4K res, Harmon Kardon sound and connectivity up the wazoo.

STUFF SAYS

Come for the picture, stay for the webOS ease of use and mind-reading

R35 000 ****

	2	4	Samsung 55HU7200 Want your curved 4K TV screen without having to strike a new gold mine in the Drakensburg? Samsung's 55HU7200 strikes a balance between size and price, with 55in/140cm of UHD screen coming in at under R30000.	R25 000	
	3		Samsung 55HU7000 Drop the curves and leave the screen and what do you get? A cheaper TV, obviously but the 55HU7000 isn't much of a step down, especially if you're a gamer. Only drawback? 4K content is still sparse but at least you'll be prepared for it when it lands.	R22 000	
	4	4	LG 55UC970T Sammy can't hog all the glory and LG's 4K offerings have also quickly become a lot more accessible. Here's 55-in/140cm of curvey LG goodness, with the company's WebOS packed in for good measure, at just a little over Samsung's headliner.	R26 000	
NEW	5	Low.	Samsung 65LS9000 Double the cost of our number one, that's the reason for the 65LS9000's appearance down here. But if you're going to spend on a 4K screen, you want to spend it here — the screen is glorious.	R70 000	
	6		LG 60LB652T Price drops for 4K means that HD screens are cheaper than ever. So much cheaper, in fact, that you can pick up 60in/152cm for the sort of price that you used to secure a solid forty for. LG's 60LB652T is a great example, with all the HDMI and USB you can eat.	R20 000	
NEW	7		Hisense 55K390PAD Honestly, how many places will you find a 55in/139cm screen for around the R11k mark? Hisense is one such locations, with the Android-powered K390 being a front-runner for your attention. And money.	R10 500	
NEW	8		Samsung 48J6300 The look of a curved 4K at the price of a traditional flat-screen, Samsung's 48in/122cm J6300 has enough smart TV functions to keep the technophile in you happy for ages. The screen's great too.	R11 500	
	9		LG 47LB652T There was once a time when a 47-inch TV was out of reach for most South African homes. That time seems to have passed, with LG's 47LB652T falling under the R10k mark. For that you get 3D, HD, as well as smart TV functions from LG's webOS.	R9 000	
	10		Samsung UA48H6400AK This is larger, why is it lower on the list? We're pretty sure it's the price. Otherwise, though, it's a decent crack at a smart TV from Samsung while being easy enough on the pocket that you might consider adopting one for major sporting events. Also: 3D.	R12 500	





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108 COMPACT CAMERAS

1		Sony DSC-HX60 Last year's HX50 was our previous pick for the best compact camera around, and 2014's HX60 isn't a huge departure from its predecessor in terms of build quality, ease of use, specifications and performance — all of which are excellent. And thankfully the superb 30x zoom lens remains. What it does add is NFC (for quick pairing with a tablet or phone) and a newer Bionz X processor, making it a slightly nippier performer.	STUFF SAYS Sturdy, simple to use and offering a huge zoom range for its size, this is a hugely capable all-rounder R5 500 ****	
2	S.	Sony DSC-RX100 III If you're looking for the best tiny snapper around, this is it. Excellent image quality, fast autofocus, a useful electronic viewfinder and professional video recording, all squeezed into a truly teeny package that'll fit into your jeans pocket. We're smitten.	R12 000	
3	O	Fujifilm X20 The X20 isn't all retro looks and no trousers. It excels in Advanced Auto mode and has manual controls and RAW shooting for creative days. The optical viewfinder, though small, is linked to the 4x zoom and frames well. All this, and it looks cool.	R6 400	
4		Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ200 If you want a superzoom cam, the Lumix FZ200 wipes the floor with its rival snoopy snappers. A small and solid build is coupled with a 24x optical zoom, an excellent auto mode and spot-on exposure abilities. The downside is the video, which is a mixed bag.	R7 000	BEST FOR AT-A-DISTANCE SHOOTING
5	Ö	Fujifilm FinePix X100S Fujifilm's souped up its fixed-lens retro shooter, with faster focusing and a big APS-C sensor. It's not all new, though, keeping the 35mm-equivalent f/2 lens and hybrid viewfinder from the X100. A less retro version with black finish is now available too.	R12 500	BEST FOR DSLR PICS IN A SMALL BODY
6		Canon PowerShot G16 The G16 packs a lot into its sturdy body: optical viewfinder, loads of manual controls and an f1.8–2.8, 28–140mm (equivalent) zoom lens. Upgrades over the G15 include Wi-Fi and faster burst shooting of up to 12fps, while image quality is as good as ever.	from R4 800	
7		Nikon Coolpix AW120 The ultimate rugged camera: almost indestructible, and fit for temperatures as low as -10°C, it will even survive a rinse cycle in your dishwasher. The AW120 also takes lovely pictures and impressive video in both good lighting and dimmer conditions.	R6 500	BEST FOR EXTREME EXPLOITS
8		Canon PowerShot G1 X MkII This powerful snapper is back, with a tilting touchscreen and a wider wide-angle lens but no viewfinder. The zoom and video are still fairly underwhelming but in terms of sheer image quality there aren't many non-system cameras around that can beat it.	R9 800	
9	•	Canon PowerShot S120 Replacing the S110, the S120 is a compact camera for DSLR users on their days off. Its 12.1MP stills, low-light prowess and useful long-exposure modes are welcome, while its slightly laggy lens-ring control and hit-and-miss Wi-Fi features take the shine off.	R4700 ★★★★☆	
10	Albert Co	Nikon Coolpix S6700 Your phone can probably match it for wide–angle photos in good conditions, but if you want to go equipped with a bit more creative control without loading yourself down with kit the S6700 will be a useful addition to your gadget arrenal.	Rtba ★★★★☆	

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with kit, the \$6700 will be a useful addition to your gadget arsenal.







Olympus OM-D E-M1
Olympus' new flagship is armed with the same excellent 16.3MP sensor as its predecessor the E-M5, but now has an improved autofocus system, a startlingly good electronic viewfinder and masses of direct controls. And look out for the E-M10: pretty much an E-M5 minus the weatherproofing and with only 3-axis stabilisation, but with an improved EVF, better metering, enhanced Wi-Fi and built-in flash in a smaller, cheaper body.

STUFF SAYS

Take the E-M5's amazing speed and quality, then add pro controls and you get the best system cam so far

R32 000 ****

			(wi/12-40mm lens)	
2		Canon EOS 700D Look, it's a new Canon at No2. No, wait, it's the old one. Actually, it's kind of both. The 700D is a minor upgrade over the 650D, keeping its 18MP sensor, flip-out touchscreen and autofocus during video and adding little beyond a new kit lens. Still great, though.	R7 900 (body only)	BEST FOR ALL-ROUND VALUE
3		Sony A6000 Sony's new system camera may be tiny but it packs a big photographic punch. There may be no optical image stabilisation but the incredible speed and accuracy of the A6000's autofocus is a real highlight, as is its large, clear electronic viewfinder.	R10 000 (wi/16-50mm lens)	
4		Canon EOS 750D The 750D redefines what an entry-level DSLR can be: it's remarkably easy to use, will help you take stunningly good photos whatever your experience level and won't ever let you down.	R7 400 (body only)	
5		Nikon D810 The top-end Nikon D810 is a monster camera. Its image quality and performance are hard to fault — if you're a serious photographer willing to stump up the cash then it's a fantastic buy. However, there are some features missing, such as 4K video and Wi-Fi.	R53 000 (body only)	
6		Sony A7R We love this camera. It's light weight but tough and delivers results that outstrip pretty much any other compact system camera on the market. It has a huge full-frame 36.4MP sensor and noise-suppression. Your wallet might weep, but your photo album will sing.	R27 000 (body only)	BEST FOR SHOOTING LIKE THE PROS
7		Nikon D600 Pro power has never come at such a reasonable price. A full-frame 24.3MP sensor combines with accurate 39-point autofocus for stunning results. Dual SD card slots, built-in flash and 5.5fps shooting speed complete a seriously powerful proposition.	R23 000 (body only)	
8		Canon EOS 70D The 70D is Canon's best camera in years. It's the first 'proper' DSLR to nail autofocus in videos and Live View, offers a multitude of manual controls and can take stunning pics in almost any situation. Amateurs who've outgrown the entry level should look no further.	R18 000 (wi/18-135mm lens)	BEST FOR ADVANCED AMATEURS
9	Rans -	Fujifilm X-T1 There's lots to love about this snapper, from its clever viewfinder and lightning-speed focus to the weatherproof body. One for the analogue lovers, it has actual buttons and dials with no touchscreen. The lack of in-cam image stabilisation is our only complaint.	R15 000 (body only)	
10		Panasonic Lumix DMC-GX7 The 16MP Panasonic is a versatile beast that, while not being much of a looker, has added tricks such as a tilting EVF and a handy touchscreen LCD. It's great for smooth hi-def video recording and, with the bijou 20mm f/1.7 lens, is a great travel companion.	R12 700 (wi/14-42mm lens) ★★★★	









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The Witcher III: The Wild Hunt PC/PS4/Xbox One Geralt of Rivia is on his largest adventure yet and in the process of creating this vast and impressively realised open-world outing, developers CD Projekt RED have demolished the competition in RPG-land. And on TV. Described as Game of Thrones meets Dragon Age, The Witcher 3 is an easy way to lose yourself in fantasy for a month or more.

STUFF SAYS

Poland has set a new bar for RPG fans - one that will not be surpassed any time soon

from R700 ★★★★★

2	Batman: Arkham Knight PS4/Xbox One The official ending of the Arkham trilogy is a thrill-ride of epic proportions, giving you an idea what it's like being the Bat night after night. Schedule some time off, just avoid the PC version for now.	from R800	
3	Bloodborne PS4 You're up for a challenge, right? Right, and you don't mind dying repeatedly in aid of figuring out what to do next — Bloodborne, from the fevered brows that brought us Dark Souls, is for you. Good luck.	from R800	
4	Far Cry 4 PC/PS3/ PS4/Xbox One/Xbox 360 Ignore how long this Himalayan adventure took to enter this list and instead pay attention to the elephants, mini-choppers and great-big-rocket-launchers that make Far Cry 4's honey-badger avoidance so much fun.	from R700 ★★★★	
5	Grand Theft Auto V PC/PS3/PS4/Xbox One/Xbox 360 Grand Theft Auto V is a cerebral shotgun blast of a game worthy of carrying on the series' mantle. The story, the sandbox and the sick leave Stuff has put in just to play more of it not to mention how good it makes current–gen consoles look.	from R700	
6	The Last of Us Remastered PS4 Joel and Ellie are on a journey that may or may not help the remaining people on the planet remain that way. Sneaking from clickers is a tense affair but you're here for the story and character interaction first and foremost.	from R650 ★★★★	
7	Forza Horizon 2 Xbox One This is everything an open-world driving game should be. There's loads to do and it captures the feeling of driving very fast better than any other racing game, to the point where Forza Horizon 2 could soon eclipse its older brother once and for all.	from R550 ★★★★	
8	Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare PC/PS3/ PS4/Xbox One/Xbox 360 An improvement on last year's <i>Ghosts</i> , with some actual innovation from the series' multiplayer gameplay. We're going to be losing many, many man-hours to the Exopowered trash-talk. Time for another support drop to come in.	from R700	BEST FOR ONLINE TEAM PLAY
9	Destiny PS4/Xbox One This isn't for everyone, and those hoping for an epic Halo-style campaign may be disappointed. But in every other way, Destiny is on a bigger, far more multiplayer level, and with the added addictive quest for loot like Diablo — an irresistible combination.	from R750	
10	Xenoblade Chronicles 3D Wii/New Nintendo 3DS/Wii U If you missed it on the Wii (most did) then you need to fix that on the New 3DS. Xenoblade Chronicles 3D will consume the spare time that you thought you had as you at	from R550	







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AKG K451

They've actually been around a little while now, but what put the K451 on-ears back on to our radar was an official price drop, and a real-world price of just R1500 or less. For that money they're unbeatable – awesomely agile and punchy sound wrapped up in a subtly stylish and foldable design. Add both standard and three-button control cables for maximising compatibility and there's practically no excuse for not getting brilliant sound from your phone.

STUFF SAYS

Fantastic sound and great portability at an almost unbeatable price. The perfect PMP upgrade

R1500 ****

Bowers & Wilkins P3 Superb sound and a solid and achingly stylish design make these the best portable $\,$ on-ears around. The fact that two cables come in the box - one with a mic and remote for iPhones, one without - only sweetens the already candyfloss-like deal.

R2800 ****

BEST FOR ON-EAR EXCELLENCE



SoundMagic E10

Yes, we also gave the very similar SoundMagic ES20s in-ears five stars. And they thoroughly deserve it. But we chose to keep these here because the more expensive E10s still represent a killer smiles-per-cent, sound-per-rand ratio.

Rtba ****



Sennheiser RS220

The specialised lossless encoding and transmission system makes these the closest we've ever come to perfect wireless sound across all music types, and despite its intimidating size, the low weight and luxuriant fit helps you forget they are there.

R7 200 ****

BEST FOR ON-EAR EXCELLENCE



Sol Republic Master Tracks

Really tough things are usually really ugly, which is why the lovely styling of the "virtually indestructible" Master Tracks headphones is so refreshing. Loud, punchy, fast and controlled, the sound is just as attractive as the design. Worth every penny. R3 000 ****



Final Audio Design Adagio III

Calling a pair of headphones Adagio seems a bit pretentious, but these decidedly affordable in-ears from a Japanese company that usually occupies the most bonkers reaches of high-end earn it with brilliantly detailed and endlessly attacking sound.

R1100



We're not going to pretend that the protruding Bluetooth module isn't a rather ugly touch, but what's most important is that these Bose headphones deliver wireless sound of superb quality. We'll put up with looking a wee bit daft for musical magic.

R3 800 **** **BEST FOR** GREAT SOUND WITH NO WIRES



Sennheiser Momentum

Classily styled, cushion-comfortable and smooth-sounding, the Momentums are the perfect over-ears for the dapper man about town. There's also an on-ear version – smaller and cheaper at R2500, available in pink, blue, green and, um, ivory/brown.

R4300 ****

BEST FOR QUALITY AND STYLE IN ONE



Sony MDR-1R

You get the feeling Sony put everything they know about sound into these headphones, cutting no corners and sparing no expense. The result is an audiophile's delight: a "true", but still exciting sound across all music genre. Pricey and too big to lug around.

R2500 ****



Harmon Kardon NC

Hi-fi maker Harmon Kardon has managed to meet and exceed unreasonably high expectations. Noise cancelling helps you appreciate the full range, detail and balance of this rousing audio performance. Smaller CL and cordless BT models also available.

R4500 ****

GOGEAR MP3 PLAYER 2GB 42995







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A WORLD AWAITS



NEXT BIG THING?



They do say the clue's in the name. User-unfriendliness is a design movement that wants to boot you off your satin-lined throne and down into the harsh, grime-laden streets of the real world. It's driven by products that are intentionally designed to be more tricky to use, with the aim of altering our perceptions and making us think about the way we live our lives and use technology. And no, it's not about your smartwatch nagging you to drink another

glass of water, stand up or take the stairs.

ell this doesn't sound too... friendly.

This isn't exactly selling it for me...

There's more to it than blindly making your life more difficult. Take designer Weng Xinyu's Angry Lamp, pictured above. It turns itself off if it detects that a room is already bright enough to read in, forcing you to turn it on again... or think about whether you really should. There's also a photo frame that gradually blurs its glass, like a fading memory, until you interact with it — perhaps to reminisce about the time the photo was taken. If being encouraged to remember your tipsy selfie with an Arnie lookalike is wrong, then we don't want to be right.

But I already have a non-annoying lamp and photo frame.

You're missing the point. This is all designed to make you pause and reflect. Consider the Albert clock, a digital timekeeper that makes you work for the time. It displays sums, the answers to which represent the hours and minutes. A little bit of daily mental arithmetic rewards you with the time, while keeping your neurons finely honed. Embrace it — otherwise you'll wake up one day with your USB-powered knife on the blink and no idea how to cut the top off your boiled egg.



A LAPTOP WHEN YOU NEED IT A TABLET WHEN YOU WANT IT



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LTIMATE Response Time | Contrast | Brightness

CURVED TV

TV's differ in terms of features and specifications which ultimately impacts picture quality and price. Hisense has just released its Ultra LED (ULED) TV range, which includes ultra-high-definition models. ULED, an enhanced version of LED TV technology, divides the backlight into 240 independently controlled zones, which enhances contrast to create a more vivid colour experience. Its ultra-dimming technology enables it to render more detailed imagery. Hisense's ULED 2,0 technology can finally fulfil your desire for the best picture quality, colour and ultimate viewing experience.

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